C-M reaches Wolstein Fund goal, celebrates raising over $1.25 million

By Michelle Todd
Co-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Wednesday, September 24th, the C-M community celebrated raising over $1.25 million for the Bert L. and Iris S. Wolstein Scholarship Fund. The event was held in the newly renovated Bert L. Wolstein Hall. The celebration was well-attended, and showcased a string quartet that played classical music throughout the event as guests nibbled on hors d’oeuvres and sipped wine. Dean Geoffrey Mears spoke to distinguished C-M alumni, current students, and other community leaders that had gathered to attend the celebration. In his speech, Mears recognized the generous contributions made by those individuals and businesses who donated to the Fund, as well as giving a heartfelt thank you to Iris Wolstein, who was in attendance and also spoke at the event.

In October 2004, Iris Wolstein pledged $5 million to support C-M’s renovation of the law school building and pledged the remaining $1.25 million as a challenge grant. At the 2007-2008 term last June, the Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm uncon nected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home. The narrow 5-4 decision mirrored the statistic that 75% of Americans think the Second Amendment protects an individual right to bear arms. C-M student-author Patrick Charles refuted that belief, along with the Supreme Court’s contentious ruling, in his award-winning essay titled, “Bearing Arms in the Ohio Constitution: A Historical and Legal Analysis of Article I Section 4.”

Charles’s interest in the topic was nothing new, but his ideas for a thesis were innovative. “I was interested in this topic and the American Revolution for some time,” Charles said. “I met with Paul Finkelman, law professor at Albany State. I read some of his books and met with him to talk about this issue. He assured me nothing showed that the Second Amendment had an individual right. Where was the evidence? I was curious, and wanted to look into it,” he said.

With a degree in History and International Studies from George Washington University and two years of law school under his belt, Charles was up to the challenge. He launched his research by looking at every colonial law from every founding colony until 1800 to see how the phrase, “bear arms”, was used. Charles wanted to see if these documents used the phrase, “bear arms”, in terms of denoting individual rights for purposes outside of the military.

“The great legal minds of the 18th century, Revolutionary War documents, and all famous philosophers used “bear arms” to denote military service to describe politics or international governments, but never denoted military service to describe politics or international governments, but never”

Organisation fair motivates C-M students to get involved, highlights student groups

By Rick Ferrara
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A recent organisation fair provided students with the chance to learn about the variety of extra-curricular groups at C-M.

On Thursday, September 25th, the student atrium became a venue for nearly all of C-M’s student organisations to attract new members. Organisations placed out candies, cookies, and other treats to entice students to stop by and learn more about how to get involved.

Over twenty-five student organisations had a table, including the newly organized Student Intellectual Property Law Association and the Business Law Association.

Students that did not attend the fair can contact Inga Laurent for more information at ILaurent@law.csuohio.edu.
By Geoffrey Mearns

Each year, shortly after classes resume, I do a presentation on the law school faculty and staff. I made my annual presentation a few weeks ago. During this year’s presentation, I spoke about some of the things that we have made as an institution over the last few years. And I used some graphs and statistics to illustrate my points.

For example, since 2000, the LSAT scores of our incoming first-year students have increased significantly. Specifically, in 2000, the median LSAT score of our incoming, full-time students was 149, which was approximately the 40th percentile of all law school applicants nationwide. The median LSAT score of this year’s full-time class was 156, which is the 68th percentile of all law school applicants nationwide – a 28 percentile increase over eight years. There has been similar improvement in the LSAT scores of our part-time students.

At the same time, the passage rates of our students on the Ohio bar exam have also improved dramatically. For example, on the July 2000 bar exam, 67% of our first-time takers passed the Ohio bar. On the July 2007 exam, the passage rate for our first-time takers was 90%. And on the February 2008 exam, the passage rate for our first-time takers was 85%.

During this same period, we have also received substantially more financial support from graduates and friends. For example, in 1999, we received a total of $250,000 in donations. In each of the last two years, we have received $1.25 million – that’s a 50% increase in annual contributions. And those recent figures do not include the $5 million we received from Mrs. Iris Wolstein to fund the recently completed renovations to the Wolstein building, which is now named Wolstein Hall in memory of her late husband, Bart. During my presentation to the faculty and staff, I also discussed our plans to raise even more money in the coming years to fund a variety of important initiatives, including more scholarships, more money for faculty research, and some additional renovations and improvements to our facilities.

And I recognized several law faculty and staff who will be honored by the University for distinguished service and teaching. Specifically, Professor Sheldon Gelman, and Ms. Joan Shirokey will receive awards next month.

When she’s not busy teaching first-year C-M law students how to properly utilize research, Professor David Forte is excited to return to the Ohio State Court. Professor Forte is likely that new Legal Writing Department Director, Carolyn Broering-Jacobs is chasing after her three young children or knitting a scarf for her husband, a skill she just recently taught herself.

Although Broering-Jacobs may be new to the position of Director, she is not new to the C-M Community. In the years 2000-2005, she taught Legal Writing at C-M, after working at the Cleveland office of Baker-Hostetler as a litigation associate for four years. “I liked the work I was doing for Baker because they [Baker-Hostetler] gave me an opportunity to lead but I eventually got the ‘teaching bug’ and wanted to apply for a C-M legal writing faculty position that I knew was available,” Broering-Jacobs said when asked what motivated her to leave the firm for teaching.

Despite the fact that Broering-Jacobs thoroughly enjoys teaching as well as the students and faculty at C-M, she eventually made the decision to 2005 to leave her job to be a stay-at-home mom. However, Broering-Jacobs admits that she never really took a “break” from her busy lifestyle, even after she left her full-time teaching position. In addition to caring for her three children during this time, she was active in the PTA at her children’s school, taught writing workshops for summer associates at Baker-Hostetler, and even found the time to do pro bono work. “My friends always joked that I was the busiest stay-at-home mom they knew,” Broering-Jacobs said.

Eventually, the “teaching bug” bit again when Broering-Jacobs learned of the Legal Writing Department Director position available at C-M law school. “As I first became unsure if I wanted to go back to work, but once I interviewed for the job, I knew that this is where I wanted to be and I was really happy extended genuine concern for the student as a person. At the end of the meeting, the professor assured the student, with a warm pat on the back, ‘You’re getting it.’ Of this encounter, the student told me: ‘That meeting was the most profound experience I have ever had with a teacher in my entire lifetime. In one 10-minute conversation with an understanding, approachable, and compassionate faculty member, my doubts were cast aside, my confidence rose 100%, and I was reassured that law school was the absolute right decision for me. Many people in this world do things every day which possibly affect other people and they go unnoticed. [This professor] touched my life in such a profound way that I had to tell you about how that one fine law faculty members touched my life and salvaged my law school experience.’

As teachers, our goal is to prepare students for a good law firm career or professional dream is to change your lives in a positive way, so that you can change the lives of others through service and the quest for justice. It is very rewarding to know that you have achieved our professional dreams. So, if one of my colleagues has made a difference in your education or your life, please let him or her know. Your words of appreciation mean so much to us.

II. Jason White sits with a fellow classmate at the CMBA sponsored social at Beck’s.

Faculty and students welcome Professor Matthew Green to C-M

By Eman Dughly

By Eman Dughly

New to Cleveland, Professor Matthew Green has become very fond of this city. Clevelanders, and even found the time to do pro bono work. “My friends always joked that I was the busiest stay-at-home mom they knew,” Broering-Jacobs said.

Eventually, the “teaching bug” bit again when Broering-Jacobs learned of the Legal Writing Department Director position available at C-M law school. “As I first became unsure if I wanted to go back to work, but once I interviewed for the job, I knew that this is where I wanted to be and I was really happy extended genuine concern for the student as a person. At the end of the meeting, the professor assured the student, with a warm pat on the back, ‘You’re getting it.’ Of this encounter, the student told me: ‘That meeting was the most profound experience I have ever had with a teacher in my entire lifetime. In one 10-minute conversation with an understanding, approachable, and compassionate faculty member, my doubts were cast aside, my confidence rose 100%, and I was reassured that law school was the absolute right decision for me. Many people in this world do things every day which possibly affect other people and they go unnoticed. [This professor] touched my life in such a profound way that I had to tell you about how that one fine law faculty members touched my life and salvaged my law school experience.’

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that I would have the chance to teach again.” Broering-Jacobs said. Although she admits that she enjoyed having all of the extra time to spend with her children, Broering-Jacobs says she is excited to return to C-M and being off ered the Director position this past spring.

When asked what future plans she has for the Department, Broering-Jacobs is full of ideas, but mindful that she needs the support and advice from the legal writing faculty before making any decisions. “The legal writing faculty here at C-M is strong and long-term… any plans for the Department would be made in conjunction with them,” Broering-Jacobs said. However, she does admit that one area she would like to focus more of her efforts is on learning exactly what type of writing skills law firms and other employers are looking for most when hiring new associates. However, Broering-Jacobs does not think that this information will be difficult to uncover. “C-M alumni are so invested in what happens here that I believe we would have a good reception from the legal community in Cleveland,” she said.

Broering-Jacobs is settling into her new office and looking forward to beginning her new position, but is really just glad to be back at C-M as a member of the Legal Writing Department faculty. “The great thing about the legal writing program at C-M is that we have always been ahead of the curve,” she noted. “In past years, legal writing wasn’t even a graded first year subject at the majority of law schools, but C-M has always graded the first year course and offered numerous upper level courses to students.

Most importantly, most of the legal writing faculty members have been here for many years, and all are committed to the students here, as is the administration,” Broering-Jacobs said.
Dual Degree Program Offers C-M students distinct advantage in job market

By Mike Borowski

Dual Degree Program

"A dual degree gives you a new perspective on things. Because of the two degrees, you can come at a question from a different angle." - Dual Degree Student, Henric Haldeborg

"[Justice Kennedy] was somehow convinced that the right to keep and bear arms dealt with self-defense on the frontier from Indians and protection from grizzly bears." - 3L Patrick Charles

"The student to teacher ratio here is wonderful; at Pitt, I had 80 to 100 students in Property. Here, I only have 56. It affords good learning opportunities for the students." - Prof. Browne C. Lewis

"I know I’d never want to go into a narrowly focused area of law. I get too bored too easily," Lewis said. Today, Lewis’ main interest is in the inheritance rights of various classes of children. She is currently working on a case on the same topic. More specifically, Lewis is also interested in the rights of artificially-conceived children. “The law hasn’t kept up with the technology,” she said. With the advent of artificial reproduction, in vitro, etc., Lewis says, “ten years after someone is dead, he could have a child.”

"I’ve seen more collaboration of students here [between law and business schools]. Their thrill is particularly extended to people who had to work all day!” - Prof. Browne C. Lewis

"My other great love is medicine, particularly forensic medicine, the legal aspect of medicine,” she explained. So great is her love for law that Lewis said she may be inter- ested in achieving a PhD in these fields. In her spare time, Lewis enjoys writing legal mysteries and thrillers.

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The best method for “getting it” your first year

By Karen Mika
LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

“Getting it” is a balance between how much one studies and how one studies. No one can do well in law school without studying a lot, but students have to understand that any in-depth study requires a sort of immersion and an expectation that the pieces will come slowly and build upon each other. There is a great pressure to achieve good grades in law school and correspondingly a desire for some method to learn the material quickly. But that simply cannot be done. Imagine the study of law as being like working on a jigsaw puzzle, trying to complete a picture of the final product. If you pick up one piece, you have no idea what it is or where it fits into the big picture; however, slowly and after comparing and contrasting the pieces to one another, you start figuring out how things should look. Sometimes that means making mistakes (you thought the piece fit with another piece, but it didn’t), and it often means rethinking your previous assessment of a particular piece (you decided two pieces did not fit together, but after trying them in a different configuration or angle, you found they did). It is slow and meticulous work, and it means reviewing what you already know—perpetually. It also means accepting that a lot of knowledge will be gained only through making mistakes.

The object is to keep up with your work for all classes, plodding through, even when not fully understanding a concept. Set up a time schedule for studying so that none of the classes are overburdened, and so that there isn’t too much of a gap between preparing for a class and the class itself. Try to set up a time to re-review material (as much as you can) rather than relying only on notes and case briefs. Even if it seems that you aren’t “getting it,” do the work, as in reading carefully and preparing case briefs. Everything will come together, but it will take time and repeatedly going through the same steps.

Fall Interview Program not the only path to employment

By Stacey Fernegel
LEGAL CONTRIBUTOR

It will send shivers down the spine of a law student faster than any Halloween ghost or ghoul. It’s scarier than class exams and even the dreaded bar exam. After so many dark nights spent nosing into textbooks and so many days spent sitting in lectures, there are few things scarier than the thought of not obtaining a job after graduation.

If you are a 2L or 3L, you may have recently participated in the Fall Interview Program (FIP) in an effort to avoid this fear. Maybe you are one of the lucky few that will get that 2nd interview or a job offer. If not, no reason to fear yet (really?!). The truth is that the majority of students don’t obtain employment this way. Although, the Office of Career Planning does not keep statistics on job offers or acceptances resulting from on-campus interviews, Bernadette Salada, Assistant Director of Career Planning for CMU, advised that only a small percentage of students obtain employment this way. But, if only a small percentage of students obtain employment through on-campus interviewing, why does it seem that there is so much excitement over the FIP? According to Salada, the extra push during this time is mainly to get students thinking about employment after graduation, not to ensure that a majority of the student body will obtain jobs during this time period. “The Fall Interview Program is stressed because we want students to start thinking about making employment decisions,” Salada said.

So if the majority of students are not obtaining employment as a direct result of on-campus interviewing, how are students finding jobs? According to Salada, graduate surveys reveal that approximately 50% of students obtain employment through networking. If the word networking conjures up images of uncomfortable “meet and greets” with hors d’oeuvres and forced conversation, no need to fear. Networking includes so much more than these types of traditional events. Other networking ideas include joining a professional association, participating in Law School Career Externship/Clerkship through the school, volunteering, and fostering relationships with mentors, peers, faculty and staff.

If you know the area you would like to practice in, joining a related association can provide a great opportunity to meet professionals in that field. For example, if you are interested in Intellectual Property law, you can join the Intellectual Property Law Association. If you are unsure of a practice area, you can join a non-practice related group, such as the Women in the Law section of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. Either way, you will need to do a small amount of research to find that the group that is a good fit.

In addition to outside associations, participating in CMU externships, clinics, and clerkships can be beneficial for your ultimate employment goal. These benefits include increasing your legal experience in a “real world” setting and introducing you to various areas of practice. Additionally, some students have found subsequent job placements after participating in these programs. Volunteering can be another great opportunity that leads you on the path to finding that perfect job.

Legal Aid Brief Advice Clinics (a one-morning commitment) put law students face-to-face with public interest lawyers and with the various private firms that staff each clinic. Prolonged volunteer experiences, like the Cleveland Metropolitan School District’s 3RS program, provide benefits far exceeding the time commitment. Volunteer experiences often open doors to legal positions on one, or continuous, occasions. While volunteering, you will be able to demonstrate your superior work ethic by showing up timely, dressing professionally, and letting your natural charm shine through.

Casual relationships are also beneficial to your job search. Mentors can provide guidance on your important career decisions. Additionally, fostering your law school friendships with fellow students, faculty, and staff can help to create a personalized social network for contacts, information, and social engagements.

Finally, another way to show initiative for finding that perfect job involves creating your own opportunities. Do not wait until a job is posted before you inquire. In addition to networking, research firms or areas that may be of interest to you and apply for positions without being asked. And, keep in mind that many small and medium-size firms will not post their open positions. “Many firms advised that they are already in negotiations with resumes, so they don’t post,” Salada said.

There is enough to fear this Halloween without worrying about your employment situation, so just do some research, show initiative, and you will likely find that perfect fit. And although the job search may seem like a scavenger hunt, remember to let your natural charm shine through. Volunteering, you will be able to demonstrate your superior work ethic by showing up timely, dressing professionally, and letting your natural charm shine through.
Conservative (noun) a: one who adheres to traditional methods or views, b: a cautious or discreet person.

This definition alone does not define me, but I hope my future columns will. Although I will not bore any one with my platform, I will remind readers that I am a realistic and open-minded conservative, who is not afraid to take a perceived liberal (see preeconomic) stance if I think it is better, not for me, but for America. I do not take kind to big brother holding us back by substituting its own judgment for our own, or doing what we are expected to do for ourselves. Any governmental structure that engages in these things does not correspond with "free dom", which is the very noun we had to audacity ourselves by in 1776.

Although there are many domestic issues to debate, the main focus today is on the basic differences between the candidates’ agendas on taxing and the economy. But even if you are a political junkie, looking to the media for answers can easily give one a splitting headache from trying to separate the truth from all the lies and empty promises—most of which the executive branch just doesn’t have the power to do alone. I looked to basic policy variations, and found Obama’s promises to be contrary to conservative ideals and to be of the “over-ambitious” and “unrealistic” type in other words, not what our country needs. While McCain is not the next messiah, his economic and tax policies are far superior to his opponent’s.

McCain begins with putting more of our hard-earned money back into our wallets and, consequently, back into the economy. Both candidates propose tax cuts for those with incomes up to $226,891, which is a great idea. However, McCain is the only candidate that will cut income taxes at all. A big tax increase in the lower tax brackets like those who earn up to $37,995, and who, for the most part, are already making a net profit from our current tax policy, will see massive, patronizing, cuts. Yet, those in higher brackets who pay a huge bit in income tax increases under Obama would not. IRS reach so deep into the pockets of the members of higher income brackets that his plan makes a bar chart look like a see-saw. If Karl Marx was still around, he would certainly approve that measure. Call me crazy but I don’t believe that the ultimate goal of American tax policy should be to completely blur the line between the bourgeois and the proletariat. Most people believe in a little bit of gradua
tion in income tax rates for the wealthy. But such larger amounts of money should not be unwillingly removed from the wallet of someone who earns it by risking and taking a stand, and thereby redistributes into someone else’s, for no other motive than a fondness of monetary musical chairs. Such a broad plan of wealth redistribution strikes against the very heart of the notion of liberty, and chips away at any incentive to become successful. The type of people in the tax brackets hit the hardest by Senator Obama’s plan make up the backbone of our economy: small business owners, who comprise over 90% of all American business and employ around 60% of our workforce. Apparently the liberals are either ignorant of what history has taught us about the effects of tax increases in trying times, or they think Americans really can plant money trees in their gardens.

In other taxing schemes, McCain will keep the “co
tax” that only the sovereign can get away with, at 15%. Obama will raise it to between 20-28%, which, due to pressure by campaign advisors that actually know about these things, will be the highest income tax on major proposals. Also, in a move to surely make America’s departed patriots, who coincidentally can no longer vote, roll over in their graves, Obama plans on increasing the estate tax from McCain’s proposed 15% to 45%! Nothing will hurt this economy more than a government sponsored hunting expedition into the funds of hard working people and estates, and nothing will do more to harm the stagnant housing market more than punishing those who want to participate. McCain’s policy of less taxes, less spending, and less government aligns more closely with the conservative, perhaps even neo-conservative, suggestion that actually let
ting people keep more of their own money makes for positive effects on the economy.

I am a third-year student in my first year of the JD/MBA Dual Degree Program. I value justice foremost in politics. For me, this economic crisis is now more bankrupt in theory than its corporate practitioners are in reality. America’s departed patriots, who coincidentally can no longer vote, roll over in their graves. In other taxing schemes, McCain will keep the “co
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Conservative rebuffal.

In his 1905 Lochner dissent, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote that the majority should decide our economic theory. When the Supreme Court upheld the 1905 Lochner, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote that the majority should decide our economic theory. When the Supreme Court upheld the 1905 Lochner, and voted for the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which repealed the Depression-era Glass-Steagall Act, it was explained in more detail below. John McCain and his wife Cindy own 13 cars and live in seven houses in three time zones. They recently lost money when the stock market plummeted, but don’t have to worry about a 40(k). In 1993, after maverick commercial banks lost customers’ life savings by playing the stock market, the New Deal-era Glass-Steagall Act passed the second

It is indeed maverick to believe you can wish a crisis away.

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ting people keep more of their own money makes for positive effects on the economy.
SBA President welcomes students, discusses year’s goals

By Elias Hazkial
SBA President

My fellow schoolmates, I hope that everyone is off to a good school year. Once again, I want to extend a warm welcome to the entering students, and thank you for choosing Cleveland-Marshall to provide you with the resources you will use on the road to becoming a lawyer. With one month behind us, and May 17 on the horizon, there has been much going on and much more to happen. There were countless great events regarding the Welcome Back Social that was at Shooters Waterfront Café on August 28, and please be assured that is just a sign of things to come. I would first like to address a few matters that affect students directly, the most evident to returning students rather than the new ones. Those who have rented a locker this year realized that rental rates were increased from past years. Locker rentals and apparel sales are the only two forms of fundraising the SBA conducts to supply our operating budget for the year. Simply put, the reason for this increase is so that the SBA will be able to continue to provide the students with the same funding and activities as in the past, and attempt to provide even more. I don’t believe extensive discussion on the rising cost of goods and services is warranted. However, it follows that because goods and services outside of school cost more, that goods and services in school will cost more, as well.

Staying on the subject of funding, existing student organizations this year will receive a total of $800, rather than $1000, such as was disbursed last year. To briefly explain, there are more existing student organizations this year than last year. It seems odd to hear this, but last year there were newly formed groups that did not exist last year, but they exist this year. In a nutshell, the SBA has the same size pie to cut up and distribute to more groups, so the pieces naturally have to be smaller so everyone gets their fair share.

What do we know is that this sondid state of affairs has brought massive frustration to students. First, many of us pay the $160.00 fee for the semester hangtag. This hangtag supposedly guarantees a parking spot on campus. What they don’t tell you is that you may have to spend a half an hour waiting in line for a spot, or alternatively, that you may have to park in BFE and spend a half an hour walking to class (yes, with all those dirty case-books).

Of course, some of us don’t have the patience to wait or walk, so we either: 1) park at a meter on the street (if we can find one); or, 2) park illegally. Both of the aforementioned choices bring the possibility of those pesky parking tickets. If that happens, then not only did we pay $160.00 for nothing, but we get to pay $25.00 on top of that, in addition to the change we put in the meter. In all all, students get a raw deal when parking here at CSU.

We may have a shot at parking in the lot next to CM if we’re lucky and get here early. Early used to mean getting here about 9:00am, but now that parking is so bad, early means before 8:30am. We could then try to park in the Business building’s lot. But even that one is getting filled up early too. You would then try to park in one of the big lots close to the main campus, but that can be a hike and your car is exposed. Meanwhile, you have to deal with traffic and frustration.

Luckily, CSU has opened up a couple of other lots (not that many spaces, but hey, we’ll take it). The best one for CM students to use is the lot west of Becky’s, which is right behind Conrad’s on Chester Avenue. Maybe they will have some lots open up for next semester. Let’s hope so.
Anonymous 1L takes first stride in first year, doesn’t “sweat the small stuff”

By Anonymous 1L

The following is the first article in a six-part series following the experience of an anonymous first-year student.

Isn’t it a little...elementary? First-year, part I

I wear an oversized backpack, I have a lab coat, and I am surrounded by several people, some of whom are peering off to the side. I immediately questioned the next three years of my life before they even happen. Now that orientation is behind us, stress emanates most strongly from the library.

I stride in there as though I’ve been going there all my life. I huddle in a careful somewhere. I open up Contracts; I do the first section, and I decide: you know, much more exciting. When I go to the water fountain, I look around nervously, hoping no one catches me in this moment of weakness, the one where I’m not studying because I’m too busy hydrating myself. I quickly return to my hole and hope no one assuages me with their eyes. I think the truth, first of all, that not are all really stressed (most of the time), but that there’s some notion out there that in the first year of law school, we’re just supposed to be stressed. And, you know, Rome, do as the Romans.

Likewise, when in law school, do the Greeks. “The Socratic Method” may be getting weak with all the age; it’s going to be as bad as I thought it might be. Personally, I’m not scared of embarrassment. If I am trying, and I don’t know, someone else must be in the same boat. Of course, as the maxim goes: “It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.”

For those of you who are new to the legal process, I think there are a few things that should encourage you to consider the advantages of keeping the number of questions that you ask yourself. You’ve been asked to me ask you a few questions. You’ve been asked to pick up that case and relate very little to you and with whom you have little in common. Before you put this article down and pick up that casebook, though, let me ask you a few questions. You’ve taken the LSAT, right? I’m sure you have a few cases in your time here in the hallowed halls of Cleveland-Marshall as well. And, to the big 2Ls and 3Ls—have you been on a law journal or have you been on a law review? I don’t think so.

If you answered “Yes” to any of the above questions, Barack Obama may not be as foreign to you as you think. Although he is best known for his activities in government, Obama had an illustrious career in the legal world that helped shape and prepare him for the roles of electoral politics. Obama attended Harvard Law School from 1988-1991 and taught law at the University of Chicago, College of Law from 1991-2004. Additionally, he also worked as a summer intern at a prestigious Chicago firm and as an associate with another Chicago firm following graduation. If one substitutes “Cleveland-Marshall College of Law” for “Harvard” and “Cleveland” for “Chicago,” one could easily have a biography that is quite similar to many of our own biographies.

As a law student, Obama was best known for becoming the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review, an honor which eventually led to the commencement of his first book, Dreams From My Father, which is a memoir about Obama’s life. Prior to Obama’s election to the presidency, the Harvard Law Review staff was bitterly divided by partisan differences. However, working hard to convince the conserva...

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The environmental law and policy clinic provides teams of students the opportunity to assist with issues such as pollution abatement, storm water regulations, brownfields redevelopment and land use. Like Obama, members of our faculty have always had the experience of guiding students through the process of navigating through thorny, difficult, and controversial questions of law and many of them can reliably relate to the following quote from a book written by Obama, titled The Audacity of Hope: “I loved the law school classroom: the stripped-down nature of it, the high-wire act of standing in front of a room at the beginning of each class with just the law book, and occasionally a blackboard, as the only measuring device. I don’t think anyone else who has been in my shoes has a similar view of the world. It is a view that is shaped by the fact that some of the elements of Obama’s life, such as his biracial background and background as a community organizer, make him a fascinating and groundbreaking figure yet his career in politics is still viewed by many...”

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