C-M alums fill political landscape

By Joe Fell

The 2008 elections have brought us some of the most exciting and noteworthy campaigns ever in American history. In 2004, the nation’s eyes turned to Ohio for several weeks due to the fact that political observers correctly believed that it was the state that would determine the presidential race. Once again, the Cleveland area is a hub of activity and energy as candidates and volunteers of all political affiliations campaign tirelessly to secure every single possible vote in the hopes of emerging victoriously on November 4th.

Every election cycle always provides compelling and dramatic news, and I am sure that I am not the only student who has had trouble turning away from the consistently updated stream of news coverage that pervades our computer screens, televisions, and newspapers. Perhaps some of us, disenchant with the original career paths that we have chosen, have even thought, “Hey, I think that I would enjoy running for office someday!”

If this thought has ever crossed your mind, rest assured that you and I are not the only people to have walked the hallowed halls of our school whose ambitions lay beyond practicing law in the traditional sense. Many C-M alumni are employed as public servants on a variety of levels of government, using their legal training and background to help improve the quality of life in the greater Cleveland area and proudly representing their alma mater in the process.

Ohio’s 14th Congressional District is particularly relevant to members of the C-M community due to the fact that both major candidates are C-M alumni — in fact, they were even in the same graduating class of 1979! In this district, which stretches from Cleveland’s eastern suburbs to the Ohio/Pennsylvania border, longtime Republican incumbent Steve LaTourette faces off against Democratic challenger William O’Neill. In addition to being a Congressman, LaTourette is best known for successfully prosecuting mass murderer Jeffrey Landgren in 1990 in a case which received widespread media attention.

First elected during the “Republican Revolution” in 1994, LaTourette has been instrumental in keeping over 1,000 defense-related jobs in Northeast Ohio, among others related jobs in Northeast Ohio, among other

SBA treats kids and students to annual Halloween parties

The Student Bar Association sponsored its two most popular fall events, kicking off Halloween night with a party for kids. SBA officers and senators transformed the C-M cafeteria into a festive activity center that offered pumpkin painting, cookie decoration, apple bobbing, and candy. Later that night, the SBA hosted its other annual social - a Halloween bash and costume contest at Panini’s on E.9th Street. See page 10 for pictures.

Moot Court Team prepares for big night, national competition

By Mike Borowski

As well-spoken as he is well-dressed, 3L Alex Reich is confident that this year’s C-M Moot Court team will excel at the upcoming National Moot Court Competition Regional this November 14-16 at The Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. Every year, over 150 law schools compete in regional rounds across the country, with the winners advancing to the finals held in New York City. “This year’s team is confident that we will perform well at Nationals,” says Reich. “We’re going to do our best. We feel really good about our briefs and our preparation. After the teams receive their material for the competition, they will work for two weeks to develop. “I think that thanks to the opportunity of being on Moot Court, I’ve been able to build both my brief writing and client advocacy skills; two talents that would not have been as strong had I not been on Moot Court,” Thomas said.

This year, Thomas will be teaming up with 3L’s Rick Ferrara and Lydia Arko to complete the second half of the C-M Moot Court force that will be taking Lansing, Michigan by storm. When it comes to Moot Court, it’s all about preparation. After the teams receive their material for the competition, they have what Reich describes as an “intense” four weeks to complete a 35 page brief that will count as 40% of their score. As Thomas explains, “Initially we split up the sections of the brief and write them separately. Out of the four weeks you get to do the brief, the last week is generally spent going line by line through the entire 35 page brief to make...
Distinguishing your educational path to become a contemporary attorney
By Geoffrey Mearns

Over the past two years, our graduating students have performed very well on the Ohio Bar Examination. Indeed, on the February 2008 exam, 95% of our students passed on the first try. But passing the bar exam does not mean you will be a lawyer. The bar exam is merely an obstacle – the last obstacle you must overcome before becoming a lawyer. Our law school prepares you to pass the bar exam. More importantly, we prepare you for all of the challenges and opportunities that await you.

Our professors ask that you think critically and reason well, because you will join a profession that will impose great responsibilities upon you. They are preparing you to be accountable to the people you represent – and to the entire community. Your legal education must be as broad and diverse as the people you serve and the cultures in which they live. In addition to knowing legal principles, you must also possess the skills to practice law. Our law school offers many opportunities to develop those skills. Becoming an accomplished writer is an important skill. Our legal writing professors will teach you to write persuasive briefs, precise contracts, and concise memoranda. Collecting your thoughts carefully and concisely will also strengthen your oral communications. You can further develop those skills by participating in the Moot Court Program, which will prepare you to represent clients before appellate courts, and the Trial Advocacy Program, which will prepare you to represent clients in trial court. You can also develop your writing skills by serving on the editorial board of our two law journals, the Cleveland State Law Review and the Journal of Law and Health.

Our various law clinics are also educationally valuable and personally rewarding. In these settings, under faculty supervision, you will deal with real clients seeking your counsel, often on critical problems. In the Employment Law Clinic and the Fair Housing Law Clinic, for example, you will generally represent our city’s poorest residents – men and women who would otherwise have no one to speak on their behalf in court.

In the Employment Law Clinic, you can work with clients in cases filed in federal and state courts and agencies, alleging inequities and injustices in employment. Students in the Fair Housing Law Clinic, together with attorneys from Housing Advocates Inc., a public interest law firm, represent clients in housing disputes, very often involving discriminatory practices.

The Law & Public Policy Clinic is best understood as a kind of “think tank” or research resource for state and local government, community-based groups, and non-profit agencies on whose behalf students seek and propose solutions for a variety of legal and policy issues.

In the Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, students work with local, environmental groups such as the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association’s Environmental Law Committee, together with attorneys from firms such as Jones Day and Squire Sanders & Dempsey, to represent environmental groups in resolving problems such as pollution abatement, storm water regulations, brownfields development and land use.

Our various externships collectively constitute an apprenticeship program, plac ing students in state and federal government offices and in the courtrooms of city, state and federal judges, where students will study cases, draft opinions and take part in day-to-day proceedings and exchanges between lawyers and their clients.

Your legal education must be as broad and diverse as the people you serve and the cultures in which they live.

Moot Court Night

continued from Page 1:

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“Moot Court Nationals Competitor, Dave Thomas

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Moot Court Night will be held Tuesday, November 11th at 6pm in the Moot Court room and is open to the public. In what Thomas likes to call, “Cleveland-Marshall’s version of the nationwide winter,” both Nationals teams will get one last chance to showcase their skills at this dress rehearsal in front of the school and three federal judges who have volunteered to judge the event.

To simulate a Supreme Court environment, each team will be given an allotment of time in which to make their arguments.

November anyone interested in watching will have the opportunity to witness first hand what a Moot Court round is like. C-M Moot Court will be held Tuesday, November 11th at 6pm in the Moot Court room and is open to the public. In what Thomas likes to call, “Cleveland-Marshall’s version of the nationwide winter,” both Nationals teams will get one last chance to showcase their skills at this dress rehearsal in front of the school and three federal judges who have volunteered to judge the event.

This year’s question will involve two areas of constitutional law along with a statutory construction argument. When all is said and done at Moot Court Night, both Nationals teams will have the opportunity to advance through the Regional competition and on to New York City for Finals this coming January and February. “I think both Nationals teams are strong in both their writing skills and oral skills. You’d be hard pressed to find a better set of advocates for the competition.”

The teams are ready and the date is set. All that is left for the teams to take the ride up to Lansing, Michigan and show the competition what C-M Moot Court is all about.

C-M runners pass Bench - Bar Run

By Jillian Snyder

Staff Writer

On Saturday, October 25, students and faculty represented C-M in the Seventh Annual Bench-Bar Run for Justice to benefit the Cleveland Bar Foundation. The event, including a 5 mile race, 5K, and 1 mile fun run, attracted Cleveland-area law students, judges, lawyers, and their families to the Galleria at Erieview for a morning of fitness, competition, and Halloween festivities.

C-M students Ashleigh Elcker, Jillian Snyder, Candice Muesik, and Adam Saurwein won the 5 mile race. Elcker placed first in the 20-24 age division, with a time of 35:38. Snyder placed second in the 20-24 age division in 37:45. In the 5K, C-M student Mate Rimac won his age division, 20-24, in a time of 20:26. C-M students were also delighted to see Dean Geoffrey Mearns at the event. Mearns ran the 5K with his kids, Geoffrey and Molly. In addition to the races, the event included plenty of Halloween activities, from a costume contest for adults and kids to pumpkin decorating, face painting, and free balloon art. The event, sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and area law firms such as Jones Day and Squire Sanders & Dempsey, was a great way to publicize and bring together members of the Cleveland legal community and their families.

Proceeds from race entries were donated to the law school’s other Just in Time! initiatives and the Cleveland Legal Aid Society. The event included a “Moot Court race” which will be held in the coming January and February. “I think both Nationals teams are strong in both their writing skills and oral skills. You’d be hard pressed to find a better set of advocates for the competition.”

The teams are ready and the date is set. All that is left for the teams to take the ride up to Lansing, Michigan and show the competition what C-M Moot Court is all about.
F a i n c i a n l  A i d  D e l a y s
Leaving Students in the Cold

By Tara Chandler

Nearly every student seems to have a complaint regarding Financial Aid this semester. For many law students, the ABS work hour requirements will not allow a student to earn enough to support month to month living needs. Many students don’t work at all in an effort to focus on their studies. In general, law students live off of their loans. So, when a student has no income after a month, havoc is wreaked on their credit card bills, late fees and rent. C-M no longer operates its own independent Financial Aid office. The admissions office operates mostly as a service to first-year students, though it may function as a liaison for second and third-years. In the end, all Financial Aid paperwork and contact must be made through CSU’s main campus Financial Aid Department. Unfortunately, we are used to living in our law school bubble, secluded on the west side of campus. Most of us have not been to any campus buildings other than the law school, Recreation center and brief stroll through the College of Business building. (i.e., the only parking spaces left near law school)

Rachel Schmidt, Director of Financial Aid at C-MC, gives the following advice to C-M students so that the financial aid process can operate as smoothly as possible for them: “Students can complete the FAFSA in the fall or winter when it becomes available. They should submit their documents as quickly as we request and check to make sure that their FAFSA is in for verification if necessary.” Schmidt also recommends that students, “make sure [they] are enrolled for the minimum credit hours and complete entrance counseling. A signed award letter must be returned to the office to be evaluated and sent to the lender. If this is received prior to July 30th, loan money should be received before classes begin.” Schmidt notes that during non peak times the processing will take two days, yet during peak periods or after classes begin it can take “2-3 weeks, but probably 15 variables affect that.” As if the troubled economy has not already caused enough problems in searching for employment, Schmidt notes that many lenders are no longer participating in the college loan program. “Since the credit market crashed, so many lenders have gone out of business. I’m just happy we still have some.” Our grad students have definitely been impacted,” Schmidt said. Thus, if you have previously selected a lender that is no longer participating, this will slow the process while a new lender is chosen.

A nother problem lies in entrance loan counseling. New this year, students are required to perform entrance loan counseling for Grad Plus Loans. Since we were told that loan counseling only needed to be performed once, most students had no clue of the new requirement. This resulted in major backlogs. Unfortunately, there seems to be a disconnect between financial aid and law students. Going back to the law school bubble theory, C-M has its own e-mail system and Schmidt suspects that this may be part of the issue. However, Schmidt I bet part of the issue is the law school has their own email. We have a pretty good communication cycle in what needs to be done. And possibly with our law school we are soft on terror,” said Turley. “We have an “unfair” system of allowing the administration to make decisions as to what they think are correct. So, I think we are better than that.”

In today’s world, the Criminal Justice Forum is scheduled to present Patrick Radden Keefe (“Warrantless Wringing, Islamic Charities and the State Secrets Privilege: The Saga of Al Haramain v. Bush”) on November 12th at 12:30 pm in the Moot Court room.

Criminal Justice Forum: Turley on Terrorist Prosecution

By Jonathan Krol

GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR

On October 22nd, Jonathan Turley, a nationally renowned author and criminal defense attorney, discussed his thoughts and experiences regarding terrorist prosecution in the United States at the first Criminal Justice Forum of the year.

Turley’s lecture, entitled “The Body Count Culture: Evaluating the Bush Administration’s Record of Terrorist Prosecution,” criticized the deceptive nature of U.S. prosecution tactics, primarily since the 9/11 attacks. Turley, who lives in D.C. and passed the Pentagon mere seconds before Flight 77 crashed into its western face, focused on the Bush administration’s sub-par terrorist prosecution record and its flawed tactics. “The emphasis of this administration is not on the rule of law,” said Turley who went on to elaborate about how the President has broken away from the Constitutionally-mandated judicial system by establishing his own judicial system at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, outside of the jurisdictional boundaries of Federal Courts. Turley is quick to point out that while he feels as though the Bush administration is to blame for its inefficient and overzealous crackdown on terror, he bluntly criticized the Clinton administration for its shortcomings as well. Perhaps more than anything else, Turley advocated for wholesale reform in Washington. Amidst biting cynicism and unerring statistics, Turley coaxed laughter from the crowd on multiple occasions when he recalled some of his experiences dealing with clients and adversaries alike – remembering how Zacarias Moussaoui, accused of being the twentieth hijacker aboard Flight 77, courted Al-Qaeda, acted like a “parking lunatic” at trial. He also said that the terrorism prosecution policies of the Bush administration were simply the result of “a remarkable lack of adult supervision.”

Needless to say, Turley’s provocative lecture challenged audience members, regardless of political affiliation, to think critically about terrorist prosecution through the lens of a terrorist defense attorney. “I think he presented a serious issue in a way that spoke to the audience,” said C-M student April Stephenson. “[however,] I would have preferred a more informative discussion rather than a one-sided rant.”

By the end of the lecture, Turley’s message was clear: terrorists should be prosecuted, but they should be prosecuted the right way. “[We] must not give into this notion that questioning methods means we are soft on terror,” said Turley. “We have an unfair system of allowing the administration to make decisions as to what they think are correct. So, I think we are better than that.”

 finances delays

By Gonzon Quinn

GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR

With hundreds of thousands of people in Ohio voting absentee, absentee ballots will help decide what presidential candidate gets Ohio’s 20 electoral votes. This article will look at some of the pros and cons of absentee ballots, and what the state of Ohio is doing to limit absentee voting fraud.

The benefits to voting absentee are numerous for the voter and include convenience, not having to wait in long lines on election day and having plenty of time to look at your ballot. Further, absentee ballots will help the November 4th election run more smoothly because thousands of voters, who are voting absentee, will not be at the polls on Election Day.

However, many election experts are skeptical about absentee voting. First, absentee ballots are more susceptible to fraud. Second, a voter casting an absentee ballot decreases his risk of getting his ballot counted. Third, absentee ballots are more susceptible to fraud because voters do not have to present a form of identification to obtain and submit an absentee ballot. Rather, a voter can submit a driver’s license number or last four digits of his social security number. The state of Ohio is attempting to combat the risk of absentee fraud by requiring election workers to check absentee ballots for proper identification, e.g., election workers will cross check records to ensure that the absentee voter is submitting a true driver’s license number. In previous elections, it was reported that election workers would not check the driver’s license number or last four digits of a voter’s social security number.

Further, the state of Ohio now has a policy that if an absentee voter’s identification is incorrect, the absentee voter will be informed of the mistake within 48 hours. After the voter is informed of this mistake he must come to the board of elections and rectify the error. A voter who submits an absentee ballot decreases his risk of getting his vote counted because there is a mistake on the ballot an absentee voter is not present to fix the mistake. For instance, if an on location voter were to mistakenly vote for two individuals for president, when he scans his vote into a voting machine the See Ballots, page 3

The Absentee Ballot Option

By Gonzon Quinn

GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR

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Externship opportunities promise valuable experience

By Stacey Fernengel

Summer externships provide an opportunity to gain valuable work experience, network with legal professionals and to try out the practice of different areas of law while receiving credit toward graduation. Rather than sitting through a heavy lecture, you could be receiving credit for preparing pleadings and motions or observing various stages of litigation. C-M provides a variety of externships within the judicial, government and public interest realms. In the judicial arena, students work for federal district court judges, state appellate court judges and specialized court judges/magistrates (i.e., Immigration Court, Cayuga County Juvenile Court, Medicare Hearings and Appeals and U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services). Other externships include working for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Internal Revenue Service, the Office of Immigration & Customs Enforcement, the National Labor Relations Board, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the John Carroll University General Counsel Office, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and CSU Legal Affairs Office.

An externship is obviously unique compared to a seminar or survey course, but is also unique compared to many paying clerk positions. Eligibility for each program varies. Basic requirements include completion of 29 credits and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better. Additionally, some programs require specific courses to be completed or that an interview be conducted. It is important to look at the specific requirements for each individual externship. For example, some externships require very general or vague background checks and clearances. In addition to deciding on a placement and meeting the prerequisites, a decision must also be made as to how many credits will be taken. In the fall and spring semesters, externs can receive between 4-6 credits, which translates to 16-24 hours a week. This means that you can receive a different experience from that of a paid law clerk in that the educational interests of the extern are at the heart of the externship. A paid position often requires students to meet the immediate needs of the firm. As an externship is through the school, the supervisor has a duty to ensure that a student’s educational needs are met, offering an incentive for formal observations and reflections. In fact, to ensure students’ educational needs are being met, program supervisors make contact with each extern and visit their job site regularly.

Program supervisors also ensure that externships serve students’ educational needs and professional development. At an externship seminar and the submission of student journals and site supervisor evaluations, the seminars are conducted occasionally throughout the semester so that students may share their experiences and get guidance from the professor.

The career services office also offers an externship seminar here at Cleveland Marshall College of Law. The externship seminar is available in the career services office, another opportunity to speak directly with your professor. If a position becomes available, you can act on it right away. Being prepared may just give you the edge you need.
The anticlimactic nature of law school graduation, the fury of the bar exam - a memoir

By Shawn Romer
FORMER GAVEL EDITOR

Last February, 95% of C-M graduates passed the Ohio bar examination on their first try. The July before that, 90% did. You plan on taking all (or most) of the classes tested on the Ohio Bar. You plan on taking a review course. You’re a hard worker. You’re a smart person. You don’t listen to Nickelback. You have to pass, right?

Well, that’s what I thought a few months ago. However, as I write this article the day before receiving my bar results, insecurity of the aftermath of failure outweighs the high statistical probability that I’ll pass. I took this test at the end of July, and nearly 3 months later on the eve of All Hallow’s Eve, I wonder if the Ohio Supreme Court’s website will list a “trick” or a “treat” next to the name “Shawn Romer” tomorrow morning.

I remember specifically my second year of law school. Dean Mearns and some of the other C-M faculty met individually with students to assess their potential for success and failure on the Ohio Bar. You plan on taking a review course. This is not an option.

You're a smart person. You study and re-take the exam, but I'll always have the stigma of failing the bar. All that comes with kids, I could say I didn't have enough time or energy to learn this material. However, if I fail tomorrow morning, I have no explanation other than the fact that I choked big-time, and that’s not how I want to start a career as a litigator often put on the spot. I may or may not be able to keep my job and re-take the exam, but I’ll always have the stigma of failing the bar. All that comes in addition to again studying for 8 weeks and sitting through 15 hours of testing in 3 days.

As a person who may or may not have just passed the bar, here’s my recommendation on how to prepare. Though faculty and bar review people have their own suggestions, they haven’t taken the test recently. Or, the fact that they teach law means they’re probably better at the academic aspect than your average Joe Six-Pack who attends C-M. So, as one to another, here’s my advice:

1. Take a commercial bar review course. This is not an option. If you struggle with multiple choice questions (probably indicated by a low LSAT score), take an MBE-specific course in addition, such as PMBR.

2. If you struggle with multiple choice questions (probably indicated by a low LSAT score), take an MBE-specific course in addition, such as PMBR.

3. Do not work through the summer. Study 8 hours a day. Do not study more than 10 hours a day (except maybe those few nights right before.)

4. Go to Dean Williams’ MPE workshops every Thursday during the summer. Many of the test-takers from other schools told me they took 2 practice MPE’s. Going to this workshop forced me to take about 5. I felt comfortable with this part of the test because of it. Also, there’s free pizza.

5. Consider taking the Ohio Bar Exam Strategies class. I didn’t take it, and I’ll let you know tomorrow morning if I should have. While some of my classmates told me that they worked only hard enough to get the “pass” (it’s a pass/fail course) and effectively had to learn everything again in the commercial bar review class, some found it very useful. Again, gauge yourself on this one.

6. Take all the classes tested on the bar, including Secured Transactions and Agency/Partnership. I remember the first day that I walked into Prof. Sagers’ Agency class. He told us that if we were taking the class just for the bar, we could instead learn the necessary material during the bar review class or in the Corporations class.

7. Relax. If you do all of this, are smart, and you stay in the class. In the bar review course, the professor gives over an entire semester of material in 3-4 hours. This is in addition to the semester of material you went over yesterday, and the semester of material you’ll be going over each day for the next 5 weeks. You simply do not have enough time or energy to learn this material for the first time. If this material is glanced over during another class you’ve taken, the extra look sure won’t hurt, and it can only help. Maybe one day Ancient Athenian Law will be tested on the bar exam. Until that day, save the extra perspective classes for later, and make sure you get in those bar classes.

Author’s note – This is not completely true. I have from time to time trusted Prof. Sagers, and I’ve heard that Ancient Athenian Law is quite interesting.)

7. Relax. If you do all of this, are smart enough to get into law school, haven’t attended any Fray or Avril Lavigne concerts, and don’t freak out, then you should be one of the 90% or 95% who passed. I really hope that I’m in this group.

If I’m not, then do the opposite of what I just said, and I’ll see some of you next Feb.

Ohio Bar results, July 2008 bar exam: School: First Time / Overall Capital University: 94% / 86% CWRU: 88% / 86% Cleveland-Marshall: 69% / 86% Ohio Northern: 85% / 83% Ohio State: 90% / 87% U. of Akron: 92% / 87% U. of Cincinnati: 82% / 81% U. of Dayton: 92% / 87% U. of Toledo: 90% / 85%
By Paul Deegan & Michelle Todd
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Ashley Todd of College Station, Texas, McCain Campaign volunteer, recently lied about being attacked at a Pittsburgh ATM by a 6’4” black man whom she alleged stole money from her and then beat her and carved the letter “B” backwards on her cheek to “teach her a lesson” for supporting John McCain. Todd told investigators that she thought her attacker noticed a McCain bumper sticker on her car, which precipitated the attack. But, now Todd has admitted that her story was false after investigators proved her about inconsistencies in her story and video surveillance of the ATM failed to back up her story concerning the robbery.

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (“ACORN”) has been riddled with accusations of submitting fraudulent voter-registration forms in a variety of states. Among the problems associated with ACORN are situations where people have allegedly filled out forms using names found in local phonebooks. Even though these seem like isolated and extreme incidents, some C-M students have recently complained that, they too, have been victims of overly zealous candidate supporters. These students have had their respective presidential candidate’s stickers torn off of their law school lockers, sometimes on numerous occasions.

What is it about this particular election that possesses people to act in these ways? Stories like this truly reflect the intensity of this election and how people’s emotions, even though unreasonable and erratic at times, can be drawn to the surface by the political process. Perhaps, it is because of the failing economy and the despair that many Americans are feeling over their jobs, gas prices, and rising health care costs, to name a few, that are driving Americans’ passion and sometimes irrational actions surrounding this election. Maybe, however, it can be linked to the fact that race could be influencing voters more than ever, considering that Barack Obama may be the first African-American President of the United States. It could also have something to do with Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin, who could be the first woman Vice-President of the United States. Then again, the Iraq War and the American lives lost could be influencing voters and inciting heated debates amongst friends and neighbors this election year. Whatever the cause or causes, this has truly been one of the most exciting and intriguing elections in recent memory. It’s a real testament to the democratic process and although, not always exhibiting the best of human behavior, this election has struck a chord with voters across the nation and has inspired political passions. With record voter turnout expected, it is clear that voting is a highly valued and respected constitutional right. The Founding Fathers may not have foreseen or approved some of the extreme measures that some have gone to (such as Ashley Todd and ACORN) in order to express their views, but the political process was something that they were passionate about as well.

It is unfortunate that some choose to act irrationally to express themselves, but it does seem to show more people are inspired to be a part of our representative democracy. If the frequency of negative behaviors has risen, then we can only imagine how many good and productive things have occurred in this political season. But of course, most of those stories go unheard. That being said, with all the emotions and passionate actions surrounding this presidential election, it will be bittersweet to see it all end on Nov. 4th. But, hopefully, we can move on with our lives when it’s all over and work together, at least for the next 4 years.

How are you feeling about this year’s election tactics?

“I’ve been living with the fear that one of the candidates would accept their oath of office by saying, “You Betcha!””

-Alana

“I voted for Nader...”

-Maryland

“Upset - someone keeps ripping the political stickers off my locker, forcing me to consider out of pocket expenses for political engravings.”

-Karri

“I’m rankled.”

-Matt
Candidates...

-continued from Page 1:

noteworthy accomplishments. O'Neill, who recently served as an appellate judge on the Ohio Eleventh District Court of Appeals, is one of the most serious challengers to LaTourette in many years. In addition to his role in the judiciary, O'Neill has amassed a great deal of real-world experience through his previous campaigns for the Ohio Supreme Court since 2003 and is currently running as the Democratic candidate. He faces Republican candidate, Annette Butler, who is one of the few things in law that has to be equally important to that academic success we drool over.

I know what you’re thinking: you’re not working hard enough.

But, you know what? I think I’m leading a balanced life, and that has to be equally important to that academic success we drool over.

At the same time, without doing any law school, the monthly budget keeps getting smaller. And, frankly, it sucks.

Speaking of money, can you believe that we have to invest several more thousand dollars for a bar review course after the tuition we’ve already invested? I have to commit to that now? I’m not even sure if I want to buy lunch today! Every day BarBri and Supreme Bar are in the cafeteria, I am reminded to look at my income-less bank account and cry a little on the inside. Then I pick up some candy to eat away the pain.

Despite bemoaning the studying, the joblessness, the stress, I am really enjoying law school. I’m not sure if I’m deluded or if this is real, but sometimes I like the challenges of studying, the crazy stories in Torts, figuring out what time is fair “free time” and when I know what you’re thinking: you’re not working hard enough.

But, you know what? I think I’m leading a balanced life, and that has to be equally important to that academic success we drool over.

At the same time, without doing anything but law school, the monthly budget keeps getting smaller. And, frankly, it sucks.

I was pleasantly surprised to find myself still alive—I mean—relieved after it was over, and excited to see what happens. Immediately after the test, I started con- sidering ideas of all the things I didn’t write and things that someone else did. I know I can’t possibly anticipate the variety of ways someone could interpret something, or the variety of things a professor likes or doesn’t like. So, why worry about what that guy did or what she wrote? Oh yeah, because I want an “A.”

Before the storm, I was stressed out like everyone else. Competition lurks around ev- ery bookshelf. I’ve heard some people spent full weekend days at the library. They are better people than me. Me? Mostly, I mill about the library and try to absorb by osmosis. Actually, I’ve been racking up those Westlaw points, doing CALI exercises (which are actually pretty helpful) and, of course, checking out books at the library because I’m broke. It is so easy to be distracted when trying to study for three straight hours, if I can even eek out that kind of commitment at one time. Sometimes I can get so busy “networking,” you know, on Facebook. But, honestly, I find it hard to figure out what time is fair “free time” and when I should feel guilty because I’m using “free-time” too liberally. It’s a fine line. It was at first, and still is, a bit difficult to regiment my lifestyle for only law school. I don’t know if it’s the same for all of us, but it’s some- what refreshing to have no schedule but law (of course, this doesn’t speak to those who work).

I exercise, I eat normal food. I made a few friends and I even get to call my fam- ily and friends more than once a week. I know what you’re thinking: you’re not working hard enough. But, you know what? I think I’m leading a balanced life, and that has to be equally important to that academic success we drool over.

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New Financial Crisis Demands Second Look at Private Interests

By Klaus Luhta

“Give me control of a nation’s money and I care not who makes its laws.” Mayer Amschel Rothschild’s statement in a letter he wrote in the 1700s. Rothschild, born into poverty in a Jewish ghetto in Germany, invented modern finance as we know it and today the family’s wealth is so vast that it literally cannot be calculated.

The Rothschilds historically are credited with, among other things, financing wars on both sides, ostensibly with the aim of dictating the outcome while making a killing.

How does this relate to the current financial crisis? The point is that this game of booms and busts has been in play long before we began reading about the housing bubble or AIG’s liquidity crunch. We had cycles long before we began reading about the housing bubble or AIG’s liquidity crunch.

During the Panic of 1873, 1897, and 1907, which predictably caused public demand to establish a central bank to prevent these cycles, President Andrew Jackson opposed Congress, formulating a scheme that would later be approved by Congress, forming the Federal Reserve Bank.

The Federal Reserve Bank Chairman is selected by Congress for fourteen year terms, all aspects of “the Fed” are independent of U.S. government control. Despite its name, the Federal Reserve Bank, which dictates American monetary policy, is a private bank. You have reservations about giving the Treasury Secretary Paulson carte blanche to dispose of the $700 billion bailout package, you will certainly be outraged to learn that the Fed, a private organization, controls the purse strings of the United States.

And this is the problem. Federal Reserve monetary policy over the past decade has continually lowered the interest rate, which ultimately increases liquidity and credit in the system. In a period of economic contraction this can be helpful. But in a period of normalcy, these low rates encourage risky borrowing because the cost of money is so cheap.

The result is that unqualified borrowers receive risky loans, businesses over-leverage their operations without counting for the risk of contraction, and financiers design fragile investment vehicles like collateralized debt obligations. These results are all predictable.

If you or I were determining monetary policy, it would be understandable to find ourselves in a similar crisis as we are today. However, the men in these positions of power have the benefit of hundreds of years of cumulative global banking experience to draw from as well as access to the greatest financial minds of our time. To suggest that the current global financial crisis is a mere surprise is an insult of the greatest magnitude to even those of us with the most modest intellects.

So the questions must be asked: What is the goal of a privately owned bank, which is responsible for controlling the money and policy of the wealthiest country in the world, when it creates a boom-bust cycle that will certainly send millions of people across the globe into panic and poverty? And why would America want to put its financial security in the hands of private bankers to begin with? Discover who benefits from the Federal Reserve Bank and you will begin to find answers.

You will likely also discover, as Mayer Rothschild’s family knows so well, that purse strings frequently double as puppet strings.

Amschel Rothschild is credited with this thought: “Give me control of a nation’s money and I care not who makes its laws.” Mayer

The only question remaining was: how much would it cost the university? I tried to answer that final question by suggesting that a full-time faculty member with the privilege of teaching a personal seminar would be a cost-effective solution. Essentially, we only needed to find a single criminal law professor willing to use his seminar rights to act as the clinical director of this experimental program.

In the end, a seminar was started. But I decided instead to try and develop a viable, practical program suggestion and offer it to the University. I knew that in order to get the Administration to consider whether or not to create a clinic I would have to provide answers to three critical questions.

1. Was there sufficient student interest to insures viability?
2. How would it be structured to allow for rapid integration?
3. What would it cost the University?

The results of last year’s referendum provided a resounding “yes, there is sufficient student interest,” as an answer to the first question. For the second question I submitted a proposal to a meeting of the C-M Criminal Law Advisory Committee in November 07, recommending that an experimental clinic structured along the lines of the existing Fair Housing Clinic could be viable. Students would be supervised on-site by practicing attorneys, while being monitored by C-M faculty members who would also teach a weekly seminar requirement. The Advisory Committee was extremely supportive, and Mr. Robert Tobik, the Cuyahoga County Public Defender, volunteered his office space and attorney staff for on-site training and supervision.

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Liberal rebuttal...  

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If Al Qaeda is on the verge of defeat, perhaps a copy of this page will convince Osama Bin Laden to surrender. However, the Obama administration’s policy is to stay and fight. We can still win the war in Afghanistan.

I do find it odd, though, that liberal supporters of this policy can support it and yet admonish McCain for “flexing his military muscle” in the same breath. The Obama administration will increase non-military aid to countries like Pakistan to build infrastructure and its long term implications. Liberal rebuttal...

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Special Photo Section - SBA Halloween “Spook”-tacular
Trial Team enhances advocacy skills through competition

By Jeremy Samuels

Students may, or may not know anything about C-M’s trial team beyond the fact that it exists. Trial Team is exactly what it sounds like. You learn how to do trial competitions, everything from motions in limine to cross-examination. Spontaneously, the team initiates a discussion with Asian American lawyers and Islander law students here at C-M. APILSA was reactivated this year after a gap of many years. The Association (APILSA) was reactivated with constant work revision and weekend training. Katie Davis describes training as “screw it up first and then get corrected.”

The physical organization of the trial team is considered another resource. Two teams make up the entire organization, each consisting of two plaintiff attorneys, and two defense. There is a single alternative member. Team One’s defense side competes against Team Two’s plaintiff side and vice versa. MaryAnn Fremion, a new member of the team says, “team organization is solid. Patients are gaining needed feedback because each team critiques the other.”

Each side of the team also acts as the other side’s witnesses regarding direct examination questions, and reserves cross-examination for the other team’s plaintiff or defense witnesses. Scott Friedman, the sole veteran of trial team considers this one of the best aspects of organization because it makes you more comfortable speaking aloud. Training descriptions differ. New member Katie Davis describes training as “running through the case on weekends and discussing what is relevant with team members.” Another team member spoke of a trial and error approach; “screw it up first and then get corrected.” Members agree however that the pace is intense. The immediate immersion in trial preparation is coupled with constant work revision and weekend training up to 8 hours a day.

All agree it takes up most of your free time. However, just as members agree that the work hours are tough, they also agree that what they learn is extremely important and stays with you. Team member Lindsay Wilber states, “applying all 1st year concepts to real life situations, and writing/arguing the opening/closing statements, direct/cross examinations and motions is like training wheels for legal practice.” Katie Davis, another new recruit said, “training forces you to work under pressure which is why it is important, as a primer for real life.” Both members and coaches also consider heavy immersion in the rules of evidence a plus, particularly the rules dealing with relevancy, impeachment and hearsay. You are forced to learn it to compete, and it becomes ingrained.

The team’s first competition is local, taking place on November 15th at the Justice Center in one of its criminal courtrooms. The other universities that will be competing are Case Western Reserve and the University of Akron. Each team should compete numerous times.

The mood is generally upbeat among team members but there is apprehension as to what the other teams will do. For example, Lindsay describes how some teams are rigidly structured by their coaches in how they are to approach issues, whereas the C-M team is given decent leeway to come up with their own strategy. Katie feels that C-M will be one of the more competitive teams stating, “everything is falling into place” regarding organization and preparedness. MaryAnn Fremion, summed up her feeling about competition the best, stating, “I hope no one objects in my opening statement.”

Trial Team is an excellent organization for receiving courtroom experience. Students who wish to work in a courtroom should attempt to join. Tryouts, consisting of an opening/closing statement are held every fall, and occasionally in the spring if spots open up. The work is hard and you will have to sacrifice. However, every team member agrees it is worthwhile since your training on Trial Team stays with you forever.

C-M Profs. introduce new legal journal with international flair

By Jillian Snyder

In Fall 2009, C-M will introduce a new law review journal to its repertoire. Open to students and faculty, the upcoming Global Business Law Review (GBLR) will have an international business focus. Specifically, the journal’s topics will vary in scope from private business law in international or transnational context to international business transactions, tax, commerce, intellectual property, technology transfer, antitrust, multi-national corporate governance, global financial markets, Internet, and employment.

Organized as a student publication, structured by C-M students with the support of faculty members, the goal of the GBLR is to give C-M and the Cleveland State University, a means of scholarly exchange within the international legal community. Although not officially linked to the International Law Student Association (ILSA), the GBLR has strong ties to ILSA. Initially Professor Milena Stierlo wanted to organize a journal in international human rights or criminal law. Professor Mark Sundahl asked that ILSA renew those efforts and gauge students’ interest. After a student survey, ILSA found that students preferred a business-oriented international law review. Student editors were selected and the journal theme and details developed accordingly. Currently, all four editors are members of ILSA: Chuck Prichoda (Business Editor), Reginald Russell (Editor-in-Chief, Andy Trout (Symposium Editor), and Justin Zucker (Publications Editor). Prichoda and Russell are ILSA Officers.

In addition to this exciting new publication, the journal will be accompanied by an international Law Symposium. October 16, 2009 has been selected for the kick-off symposium date. Each annual symposium will have a theme, and will deal with international issues in the legal and business community. The editors are in the process of selecting speakers for next year’s symposium, but are pleased to announce that CLE credit will be available. In addition to the symposium, the GBLR will be linked to the web. Website news feeds and blogs, open to everyone, will be structured to provide content based on relevance and timeliness pertaining to the journal. GBLR will also be available in print as well as electronically.

To get involved with C-M’s newest legal research publication, stay tuned for information regarding the write-on process, which will be communicated later this semester. There will be a written portion and a citation quiz, and students in the top 5% will grade on. Interested students should attend ILSA meetings for more information, or may direct specific questions to GBLR’s editors.

The ILSA editors would like to propose a challenge to C-M students. The GBLR needs a creative symbol to distinguish itself as a new law review journal. The symbol should represent the international business focus of the journal. The editors can be e-mailed to: paul.a.giae@law.csuohio.edu.

Revitalized student organization hopes to connect C-M students to growing Asian legal market

By Arunesh Sohi

The Asian Pacific Islander Law Student Association (APILSA) was selected this year after a gap of many years. The APILSA was formed to provide an effective and visible body to articulate and promote the needs and goals of Asian and Pacific Islander law students here at C-M. APILSA aims at addressing the concerns of Asian students as well as to provide academic and employment support to its members. This year, APILSA plans to hold panel discussions with Asian American lawyers working in the Cleveland metropolitan area. Other events planned during the course of the year include a lecture on comparative law issues in Asia, fundraiser sale of Asian food, reaching out to the Asian American Bar Association of Ohio, and building a database of course outlines for future students.

APILSA officers felt that it was important to have an active student organization not only to support Asian and Pacific Islander law students, but also to provide specific knowledge about Asian legal markets is very important to lawyers in this globalized competitive world. More and more American new recruits are outsourcing to service countries like India and China and if you’re going to be representing such companies, it’s critical to have a good understanding of the culture and legal system of those countries. Outsourcing is particularly important to practices that specialize in international business, including start-ups, mergers and acquisitions, private equity, joint ventures and initial public offerings. It is not only important to examine the security of services by those involved in outsourcing, but also to avoid ethical and liability risks by understanding the industry and outsourcing regulations.

Therefore, APILSA plans to hold one or two events that will give a brief overview of the court systems, business cultures, and outsourcing in China and India to interested students during the course of the year.

Anyone that is interested in joining the APILSA, or would like further information about the organization may contact the President, Kewu Li via email at kewu.li@law.csuohio.edu.

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