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We have a newspaper? But of course!

From the Editor: We're back...and we're ready!

Welcome to The Docket, the voice of the Georgia State University College of Law! This is the first edition of The Docket in over four years. So many exciting things have happened at the law school since then! Where to start!?! New Dean, Renovated 6th Floor, Professors offered Fulbright Grants, the purchase of a new building...and this fall,

The 25th Anniversary of the Law School!

There are many exciting new features in this edition of The Docket. On the first page, you will find the latest news of interest to the law school community. Inside, you will find exciting sections to help keep you informed and entertained. In the **Student Organizations** section, you will find events and information relating to student organizations. The **Student Life** section features places and things of interest outside the law school, while **Inside the ULB** features people and things of interest inside the law school. If you are looking for a job or are interested in finding out information about different areas of the law, the **Careers** section is the place for you. If you want to find out about serving the public interest, the **Pro Bono** section should satisfy your curiosity. To check out opinions or thoughts about what is going on in the legal world or in school, see the **Editorial** section. That is also where

you will usually find the Letter from the Editor. When the long day is done and you have a moment to yourself, check out the **For Fun/Classifieds** section and try your hand at the crossword puzzle. In the future, we plan to include an informative section called Point/Counterpoint. In that section, two students will go head to head debating and examining a significant legal issue.



I am excited about these changes and hope this is a new beginning for this vital law school tradition. Remember, this is your voice, so we will always look for input from students and faculty. I look forward to your participation in our continuing effort to be the "voice" of the Georgia State University College of Law.

Lastly, there are so many people to thank for getting this project off the ground: The SBA, for taking the leap and deciding to put it back into print; Dean

Kaminshine, for offering his generous support; Jerri Nims Rooker, who is not only our advisor, but was the Editor-in-Chief of The Docket her second and third years of law school; and of course, the many talented writers, photographers and students who helped this become a reality.

Thank you.

Suzanne Lee-Jackson, Editor-in-Chief

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The College of Law Gets a New Home

On November 10, 2006, University President Carl Patton announced the Georgia State University Foundation's purchase of the SunTrust building and the block of several acres to the east. This area will be the new home to the College of Law, the Robinson School of Business, additional classrooms and an auditorium. In addition to the 26-story office building, the \$52 million purchase also includes three smaller buildings and an 8-story parking deck.

Dean Kaminshine's comments on the purchase accurately summarized the feelings of the students and faculty alike when he stated..."the SunTrust site will be a 'new and identifiable building' appropriate for the College of Law's status."

PILA Auction a great success!

An estimated \$17,947 was raised with the help of hundreds of donations, volunteer support, a dedicated event team, and, of course, generous bidders to make it one of the most successful auctions in the event's history.

See "Student Life and Activities" for details.

Professor Timmons Promoted to Dean!

After eight years of outstanding performance at Georgia State University College of Law, Professor Kelly Timmons has been promoted to Associate Dean of Student Affairs!

See "Inside the ULB" for details.

Barrister's Ball Tickets on Sale

The Barristers Ball is right around the corner! This year's Ball will be on Saturday, April 7th, at the Sheraton Midtown at Colony Square. Tickets are \$50 a person until March 2nd. Great food, great music, and lots of fun!

See "Student Organizations" for details.

Letter to the students from Dean Kaminshine

With the spring 2007 semester now fully under way, I wanted to share with you formally what you all have observed informally: some changes in our associate dean ranks, and a thank you to Dean Emanuel for her extraordinary service to the COL.

As many of you already know, Anne Emanuel stepped down as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the end of the fall semester to resume her demanding work as the official biographer of legendary 5th Circuit Judge Elbert Tuttle. Dean Emanuel was supposed to make this transition over a year ago, and again this past summer, but being the incredible person she is, agreed to delay the transition until now. I cannot tell you enough how fortunate the COL has been in having Dean Emanuel to oversee the academic side of our operation. We all have benefitted immeasurably from her deft touch, her judgment, her advice, her discretion, her candor, her capacity to take on an unfair load, and her unfailing fondness and dedication to this law school.

At the same time, I am delighted that Roy Sobelson has agreed to become the new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Many of you have been fortunate to work first-hand with Dean Sobelson in his role as Associate Dean of Students. Dean Sobelson has great rapport with the students, the faculty, and the staff, and knows this institution as well as anyone. With his two years as Associate Dean of Students, and as a member of our admin team, Dean Sobelson has moved into his new role quickly & smoothly.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Professor Kelly Timmons will become the new Associate Dean of Students, effective at the end of this semester (though "Dean" Timmons has unofficially already begun taking on some of her new responsibilities). If you have not yet gotten to know Dean Timmons, I encourage you to stop by and introduce yourself to her. You will find her helpful, available and a very valuable resource. Please join me in congratulating Dean Timmons on her new position.



Suntrust Building



Dean Kelly Timmons

Intellectual Property Law Society Hosts "Hot Topics" Panel Discussion

By Jessica Keesee

You are probably all familiar with the annoying pop-up ads associated with various websites, but as most of us are downloading "pop-up blockers" advertisers have turned to keyword advertising in search engines as a means of selling their goods. In keyword search advertising specific terms trigger certain advertisements that are then listed as "sponsored" results. In order for advertising to be effective the recipient must feel a need to purchase the advertised product or service for some functional, financial, or emotional reason. However, before advertising can convey this "vital" message the promotion must be placed in view of the consumer. Internet surfing has become a popular first source for many consumers that intend to research an upcoming purchase and, as a result, web based advertising models attempt to take advantage of this consumer's screen time.

But what happens when you search for a brand name, one that's most definitely been trademarked? For example, this tax season you've decided you want to do your own taxes. You've heard that "Electrotax" is the program to use when aiming for the biggest return. You utilize your favorite search engine and enter "Electrotax". Inevitably, you'll find www.electrotax.com, but you'll also notice links for competitors like H&R Block, Tax Cut, Quicken, TurboTax, and other tax preparation soft-

ware/services. This is due to companies paying search engines to include "Electrotax" as one of their "keywords" advertisement triggers.

Don't be fooled, this isn't Google or Yahoo's attempt to help the consumer by broadening search results. It all comes down to dollars and cents, as search engines have entire business models dedicated to selling keyword search results. Trademark owners no longer have exclusive rights to their keywords in regards to online advertising and many search engines rely on the sale of trademarked keywords for their livelihood.

This topic and others were among those discussed at the "Online Advertising and Trademark Disputes" panel Thursday, February 1st. Hosted by the College of Law, Intellectual Property Law Society (IPLS), and COL Intellectual Property Founders, the panel provided students and local attorneys an opportunity for real-world discussion with industry leaders on intellectual property issues related to online advertising. Moderated by Doug Isenberg of the GigaLaw firm, the panel boasted Professor Michael Landau, Chris Copp of InterContinental Hotels Group, and Alex Fonoroff of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP, with closing statements from Chris Chan of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP.

A foundational tenet of trademark infringement involves the likelihood of consumer confusion. In online advertising the issue then becomes whether consumers are likely to be confused by the "sponsored" results?

Most courts have held that infringing ads are those that falsely represent or conceal the identity of the advertiser. But what of the confusion that comes from distraction and misdirection or from the text of the ads themselves? In these cases the search engine is not the literal infringer but it could be argued that such companies are enablers. Search engines like Google and Yahoo perform limited evaluations of keyword ad sales restraining keyword use to what is reasonable or nominative. Despite these restrictions trademark holders are trying to prevent the use of their trademarks in keyword based advertising. Is it infringing? Is it fair use? Are trademark holders just attempting to overextend their limited monopoly? I don't know – maybe I'll just "Google it" (but that's a whole other issue).

Interested in Intellectual Property?

Stay tuned for news about the following events:

March 23: Law Review IP Symposium

Late Spring Semester:

IPLS hosting a mixer with local attorneys

End Spring Semester: IPLS elections

Immigration Law Society Hosts Citizen Drive

By Jad Atallah

Once again, the semiannual Immigration Law Society (ILS) Citizenship Drive is right around the corner. This is ILS's main event in which a group of volunteers composed primarily of Georgia State law students and attorneys from Atlanta's legal community donate their time on a Saturday to help green card holders complete their final immigration form in order to apply for naturalization.

Given that ILS itself is a relatively new organization, perfecting the logistics of the Citizenship Drive itself has been an ongoing learning experience. However, this past fall, the event proved to be our greatest success to date. We found ourselves surprisingly busy assisting an unprecedented eighty clients. Due to the fact that our flyer stated that we would only provide assistance to the first fifty clients, some arrived as early as 4 a.m. and stood out in the cold for hours to secure a spot. Needless

to say, fifty clients is no longer our target. Our goals today far exceed that number.

However, don't let the fact that the drive encompasses "work" mislead you into thinking that this event is a weekend spoiler. To the contrary, the atmosphere is very relaxed. What could possibly go wrong with a day that starts off with hot coffee and donuts and concludes with a free lunch? Throughout, our volunteers alternate between helping clients with their immigration forms and socializing with attorneys, clients, classmates, and friends.

But perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the Citizenship Drive is the hands-on experience that you will surely receive dealing with ordinary people with fascinating stories from every corner of the globe. While they may come from different worlds, these green card

holders do have one commonality. They all aspire to be citizens of this country and all have a genuine appreciation for what it means to be an American. Surely at this point, most of them have earned the privilege of the title.

The upcoming Citizenship Drive will be held on March 24, 2007. I highly encourage all GSU law students to give a helping hand. You will be surprised at how much you will learn about immigration law and procedure in a pleasant social setting, the long road to citizenship that countless individuals take each year, and last but certainly not least, the always intriguing life stories that you will hear directly from many of the country's newest citizens.

For more information about the Citizenship Drive

email Jacob Shteyman at:
yshteyman@student.gsu.edu

SBA Announces Barrister Ball Details

By Tony Yannone

Barristers Ball... it's right around the corner!

This year's Ball will be at the Sheraton Midtown at Colony Square on Saturday, April 7th. Tickets are \$50 a person until March 2nd (after that they go up to \$60), but we're only selling them until March 16th, so get 'em fast! There's gonna be great food, great music, and lots of fun! The general schedule for the evening and the menu as follows:

Cocktail Reception (7:00pm – 8:00pm)

Fruit & Cheese Platter

Plated Dinner (8:00pm – 9:00pm)

Salad tossed with Toasted Pecans, Oranges, Sun Dried Cranberries, Chives drizzled w/Champagne Vinaigrette

Entrees

10oz NY Sirloin over Mushroom Ragout
 Herb Crusted Chicken with a Caramelized Onion Sauce
 Black & White Sesame Crusted Filet of Salmon
 Fresh vegetable lasagna with marinara sauce (Vegan!)
 All served with a Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
 Seasonal Vegetable Medley, Fresh Warm Rolls & Butter,
 Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee,
 Hot Tea, Iced Tea & Water

Dessert

Double Chocolate Baby Bundt Cake with Bourbon Sauce
 (Tell the SBA if you would rather have cheese cake!)

Music and Dancing (9:00pm – Midnight)

A full coffee station will be set up @ 10:30pm.

We expect to have a door prize or two, and at some point during dinner we'll announce the Professor of the Year, 3L Superlatives, and the 2007-2008 SBA Board. This promises to be a great event! For those who have additional dietary restrictions due to Passover, we've got ya covered! Just let the SBA know if this applies to you when you buy your tickets. Oh, last thing, make sure you ask about the special room deals available at Sheraton (includes parking!).

Congratulations!

STLA	Law Review	BLSA	Moot Court
<p>NATIONAL CHAMPIONS William Daniel Mock Trial Competition Team: Elinor Hale, Jason Waters, Jordan Jewkes, Emily Ahlquist, Suzanne Lee-Jackson, Zach North, Josh Sutton. Coaches: Alison Burleson & Brian Fortner. Additional congratulations to Elinor Hale for being selected best advocate of the competition.</p> <p>REGIONAL CHAMPIONS ABA Regional Competition Team: Tiffany Bartholomew, Mitch Freehauf, Keith Hayasaka, Anjel Burgess, and Cal Leipold. Coaches: Tom Jones & Cheryl Champion. During the weekend of March 30, the regional champs will represent GSU College of Law in the national competition in Texas!</p>	<p>2007-2008 EDITORIAL BOARD Editor-in-Chief: Cylinda C. Parga Executive Editor: Nancy Rhinehart Managing Editor: Tiffany M. Bartholomew Business Editor: Yakov Shteyman Lead Articles Co-Editors: Adina S. Greiner & Erin K. Witcher Notes & Comments Editor: Megan L. Iorio Research Editor: Ted Solley Legislation Co-Editors: Brian Michael Basinger & Catherine F. Lotti Student Writing Editor: Nicola M. Pasquarelli Symposium Editor: Melanie R. Nelson</p>	<p>REGIONAL CHAMPIONS Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition Team: Deah Warren, Stacey Gamby, Kairi Smith and Moieh Konan. Coaches: Adrian Britt with Travelers Indemnity Insurance Company and Katonga Harris (3L) During the week of March 21-25, the regional champs will represent GSU College of Law in the national competition in Atlanta!</p> <p>SHLA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS NCCU Bioethics Mock Trial Competition Team: Katonga Harris, Ernessa Brawley, Sherrie Brady, and Lyndie Freeman. Additional congratulations to Lyndie Freeman for being selected best advocate of the competition. Coach: Deah Warren.</p>	<p>2007-2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President: Matthew Midgett Vice President: Jillian Nelson Vice President of Competitions: Russ Hetzel Vice Presidents of Appellate Advocacy: Staci Bray and Eric Teusink Vice President of Records: Rob Schenk Vice President of RWA: Marisa Leeds Vice President of Development and Media Relations: Drew Timmons Treasurer: Priya Palvia</p>

Tax Law: So Easy, Even A Cave Man Can Do It!

By Chiquita Woolfolk Banks

Because taxation is an inevitable part of American private and business life, the need for tax attorneys is imperative. As tax attorneys work with clients' confidential, financial, and personal information, several characteristics begin to ring true. Paramount among these are trustworthiness and strong interpersonal communication. Other necessities include a fundamental understanding of tax regulations and procedures, a vital attention to detail, and keen time-management skills.

Tax law generally involves issues in three distinct areas: controversy, planning, and employee benefits. Tax controversy arises when a taxpayer (business or individual) and the Internal Revenue Service disagree on how much tax the taxpayer owes. This area includes audits, appeals, liens, seizures, and litigation. By contrast, tax planning involves the reduction of a taxpayer's fiscal burden in such diverse arenas as individual income tax, mergers & acquisitions, and real estate transactions. Employee benefits practice is a highly-specialized category of tax law encompassing deferred compensation plans (e.g. pension plans and 401(k) plans) and benefits packages.

Though it's difficult to give an accurate picture of what constitutes a "day in the life" of a tax attorney, my mentor, tax attorney and partner at Ernst & Young LLP in Chicago's State and Local Tax Services, gave me a snapshot of his typical morning:

7:30 a.m. - It's better to get into the office earlier than others to get the chance to check e-mail and voice mail, handle any administrative tasks and sketch out a general plan for the day. I also spend time glancing through The Wall Street Journal and any local periodicals for news regarding my clients.

8:30 a.m. - My 9:30 a.m. conference call with Client A to discuss the possibility of creating a REIT (real estate investment trust) and the potential state tax implications has just been moved to 10 a.m. I'll take this time to further review the client's current structure with the rest of the team.

9:00 a.m. - I begin a quality control review of Client B's federal consolidated tax return and corresponding state returns. This client has multiple entities and I have to pay close attention to the deductions and add-backs

which differ per state. With the state research memorandum and matrix prepared by the Senior on the project, a recent law grad, I have the resources I need to review the return.

10:00 a.m. - Client A's conference call begins with the client's Tax Director, Chief Financial Officer and other tax department personnel. Since this client is well-versed in the Tax Regs., we get the opportunity to discuss the nuts and bolts of the transaction and its potential tax savings which are estimated at \$1,000,000 over a 3 year period.

12:00 p.m. - Lunch with the team to celebrate winning Client A's advisory work!

As you can see, a tax attorney, like other attorneys, has to be in-tune with the needs of his/her clients. Life is never boring as an attorney, and the life of a tax attorney is as unique as it can get!

Tips for a successful job search

By Elizabeth Marum

There comes a time when everyone must branch out on their own. For law students with the looming deadline of graduation, the time to find a job is now. The pressure is on as graduation looms less than three months away.

If you are not a CSO regular, OCI has not been working in your favor, you have missed all the career fairs thus far, or you are like me and cannot figure out what to do next, here are some suggestions to help you in your job search.

- Get in touch with the contacts you have made (you have been networking right?)
 - Let them know what you are hoping to do and ask their suggestions of refining your search. Maybe they will know of a prospect.
- Go specific: research firms in your chosen location/practice area and make contact
- Broaden your search: Expand your search options by location and practice area.
- Keep your mind open to working in smaller towns and throughout Georgia.
- Try to consider all areas of law you have an interest in practicing and include them in your search.
- Don't limit your search to only small, medium, or large firms.

- Think judicial clerkships: firms like clerkship experience and often will give big signing bonuses to lawyers who worked as a judicial clerk for a year or two.
- Go for a state or federal government position (IRS, Fed. Reserve, Social Security Agency, etc.)
- Consider other options outside the traditional practice of law:
 - Judge Advocate General (Air Force, Navy, Army)
 - FBI
 - CIA
 - Secret Service Agency
 - Non-legal business or industry
 - In-house counsel
 - Financial/Estate planning
 - Consulting
 - Consider teaching in higher education
- Don't forget the massive job search engines.
- Use LexisNexis or Westlaw. Both sites have job listings.
- Talk to faculty who teach and work in the specific areas of law you have an interest. They may have great referrals.
- Join local bar/legal societies and attend legal net working events to make new contacts.

Here are some legally related web sites the CSO has compiled that may help you in your job search:

- www.usajobs.opm.gov
- National Health Law Program, www.healthlaw.org
- Legal Internships, www.usd.edu/~legalint
- America's Job Bank, www.ajb.dni.us
- www.attorneyjobs.com
- www.lawmatch.com
- www.flipdog.com
- www.emplawynet.com
- www.legalemploy.com
- www.lawjobs.com
- www.lawlinks.com
- www.lawbulletin.com
- Higher Education Openings, www.chronicle.com
- www.peoplebank.com (International)
- www.oneworld.net (International)

(For a complete listing, visit the Career Services Office for the *Legal and Legal Related Web sites* handout)

Statistically Speaking...

Job Statistics for GSU Law Graduates

By Elizabeth Marum

For those of you on the verge of graduation worried about not finding a job, the Class of 2005 job statistics indicate that 162 of 180 reporting graduates (190 graduates total) had jobs by the end of 2005.

Here is more information on 2005 GSU Graduates:

- 141 had full time legal jobs
- 15 were working in full time non-legal jobs
- 70 work in small firms
- 36 worked in large firms
- 33 were working in government/state or military
- 94 were still in Atlanta

And now for the all important money:

- Average salary of GSU law grads: \$74, 431
 - Average salary in private practice: \$80,904
 - Average government salary: \$48,542
 - Average Public Interest salary: \$46,000
 - Business and Industry: \$75,700
- Information courtesy of the CSO*

Fall 2007 Externship Information

An Externship Information Session is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th at Noon (room number to be announced). The benefits of participating in an externship will be explained and a list of all of the programs available for Fall 2007 will be provided. To be eligible to participate in an externship, a student must have completed all first year required courses and have a grade point average of 73.0 at the time of application. The application period will be held from March 12 through March 23. All application correspondence can be obtained by stopping into the Externship Office (on the 3rd floor), or by e-mail to **Sarita James** (sarita@gsu.edu). During this time, the externship office will send out e-mails regarding application status.

Thanks to Sarita James for providing this information.

Career Services Events

Sixth Annual Atlanta Legal Hiring Conference
 March 23, 2007

Legal employers from the Atlanta and surrounding areas will be interviewing law students and recent graduates for summer, entry-level and lateral positions.

3rd Annual Southeastern Intellectual Property Job Fair
 July 31, 2007

The 3rd Annual Southeastern Intellectual Property Job Fair (SIPJF) for rising 2Ls and 3Ls will be held on Tuesday July 31, 2007 in the Student Center Ballroom. Contact the Career Services Office for registration details.

Information courtesy of the CSO website.

Georgia Bar Pass Rates (July 2006)

First Timers (in order by percent)

Emory University	95.2
Georgia State University	93.4
University of Georgia	90.7
Mercer Law School	90.6
John Marshall Law School	70.0

All Applicants (in order by percent)

Emory University	94.4
Georgia State University	91.3
Mercer Law School	90.0
University of Georgia	90.9
John Marshall Law School	65.0

Information courtesy of www.gabaradmissions.org

Professor Timmons Promoted to Dean!

By John Gunn

After eight years of outstanding performance at Georgia State University College of Law, Professor Kelly Timmons has been promoted to Associate Dean of Student Affairs!

You may recognize the name. Rumor has it she was voted Teacher of the year so often that the administration finally had to ask her to refrain from the competition (this rumor has not been verified!). Dean Timmons graduated first in her class (yep, Numero Uno the Grand Pooh-bah, Mac Daddy) from the Vanderbilt University School of Law, but you could never think 'bookworm' from her bright and animated personality.

When asked directly she'll admit that she did receive three "B"s while in law school (actually one "B" and two "B" pluses). The reason grades were so important to her is because she knew even in law school that she wanted to be a law professor. And what a job she's done! Three time teacher of the year award winner! When asked what most excited her about the new promotion she smiled and offered "telling my Mom and Dad!"

And just in case you missed it at the PILA Auction...she can sing! In performing a rendition of John Lennon's Dreamer, we learned that she has one "dream" for all law students..."a course load of one." I wonder which "one" subject she was referring to? (Hint: In the song, she mentioned loving "proximate cause." Hmmm...)



Dean Kelly Timmons

Professor Timmons currently teaches Torts, Employment Law and Constitutional Tort Litigation. It appears the Con-Tort-Lit class will be dropped from the curriculum due to her increased administrative duties, but we're all very proud to have such a great student's advocate promoted to Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

Other changes amongst our deanships include Anne Emanuel finally having the opportunity to pass the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs torch to Roy Sobelson who has agreed to accept the role. Dean Emanuel has been kind enough to fill the role for over a year past her promised reprieve, deferring other opportunities for the good of the College of Law. Tremendous thanks go to Dean Emanuel for taking what could only be referred to as an "academic overload" for as long as she has and running the ship with such great stride. She'll be taking the immediate opportunity to move forward with her work as the official biographer of legendary 5th Circuit Judge Elbert Tuttle.

As Dean Kaminshine mentioned in his recent email, Dean Sobelson has great rapport with the students, the faculty, and the staff. Dean Sobelson spent two years as Associate Dean of Students before moving into the new role. He'll be judged against Dean Emanuel's high marks and for those of you wondering, he's also one heck of an Evidence professor (it was close there for a while, but I passed)!

The Face Behind the Emails...Patricia Rackliffe

By Suzanne Lee-Jackson

You know the name, you've received the emails, let's get to know the person! Patricia Rackliffe, who we all know as "Tricia", is the Associate Registrar of the College of Law. In addition to listening to us beg to get in (or out) of classes, Tricia maintains our grades, organizes class schedules and formulates the rankings.

As someone who spends a lot of time in Tricia's office—not only to beg, but because she is a genuinely nice person, I had the opportunity to ask Tricia what she finds most interesting about working with law students. She told me that when she first considered the position, she was warned about the temperaments of law students (apparently from someone who works at one of those *other* law schools)—aggressive, bossy, impatient. However, she says in her experience at GSU, she has found that none of that is true about our students. She says we're funny, intelligent and great to talk to. I knew spending all of those hours in her office would pay off!

On another note, in the time I've spent in Tricia's office, I noticed she has books about serial killers. Seems we share the same fascination with what makes these people "tick." Interestingly enough, in reading the answers to her questions, I noticed she likes to chop things up...hmmmm...Enjoy!

Name: Tricia Rackliffe

Birthplace: Atlanta, GA

Hometown: Atlanta, GA (obviously too lazy to move)

Position at the law school: Associate Registrar

Major responsibilities: Grades, registration, exams, clearing graduates, rankings, reporting to The Bar

Favorite thing about working with law students:

Our law students are so accomplished as people. They have interesting lives and jobs outside of law school. They can hold a conversation. They don't (usually) panic over small stuff because they do things like fly airplanes and catch bad guys and other important things.

Why Georgia State University College of Law?

Those of us who have been here a while say that if you hang around long enough they give a job. You would be surprised how many people at Georgia State started as student assistants, then regular employees. I started as a student assistant in the University Library, got hired as a full-time, moved to the University Registrar's Office, then to the law school. I've been extremely lucky in my career choice.

What did you do before coming to GSU-COL?

Graphic artist at various printing companies.

Favorite Neighborhood: Do I have to choose just one? Love the Cheshire Bridge Road area because it's central to pretty much anything else. And my house is over there.

Favorite Restaurant: Little Bangkok and Baraonda. I can't choose just one of anything :)

Favorite watering hole: Highland Tap or Vickery's or Apres Diem depending on my mood and traffic.

Favorite musical group: Loreena McKennit, Pink Floyd and anyone who sings what Jim Steinman writes. See? I told you I can't pick just one of anything.



Tricia Rackliffe

Name of 3 CD's that are currently in your stereo:

Bat Out Of Hell/Meatloaf, Mystere/Cirque du Soleil, and some kind of surf music.

Favorite movie: Rambo: First Blood Part II (what can I say, I'm a low-brow). Conan, The Barbarian is pretty good, too.

Favorite book: Joy of Cooking. Have all the editions. LOVE to cook. It's therapy. Grab a knife and chop things up.

Favorite author: Currently it's Brian Haig. He writes the Sean Drummond series (love Sean Drummond; he's such a smart-ass). Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child. Elizabeth George. I could go on all day about books since I love to read.

Favorite all-time T.V. show: Twilight Zone (the Rod Serling version). A lot of those stories were based on short stories from the Alfred Hitchcock Presents Series. All those books are in boxes in my attic. I need to re-read those...

Favorite legal T.V. show: Bones. Is that legal? If not, then CSI (the original, not the wannabees) and Criminal Minds.

Favorite sport: Dog Agility. Is that a sport?

Favorite vacation spot: Pass-A-Grille Beach, Florida

Three people dead or alive that you would like to have

dinner with: Katherine Hepburn, Neal Boortz and Nigella Lawson

Favorite super hero: Bugs Bunny. If that doesn't count, then Spiderman because he's such a smart-ass (do you see a trend?)

What did you want to be when you were growing up: A Registrar. Doesn't every little girl? Actually, I wanted to be a veterinarian.

ABA Descends on the College of Law

by Nichole DeVries

What do new library furniture, facility renovations, and the nervous anticipation of the administration and faculty all have in common? Answer: The American Bar Association (ABA) review of accreditation. Every seven years law schools are subject to evaluation by the ABA. The process begins with a self-evaluation by the dean and faculty reviewing the program, evaluating strengths and weaknesses, setting goals, and developing a plan to achieve those goals. According to ABA representatives, the College of Law submitted an estimated 174 page report in preparation for the ABA visit. The purpose of the visit is to allow the accreditation committee to apply each of the ABA standards to the facts of the school. If the school is not in compliance with a standard, the administration and the ABA set goals to comply. Members of the six person accreditation team evaluate criteria including library and information technology, facility, faculty scholarship and accessibility, and professional skills training.

An open forum was held on Monday, February 19 to allow students to voice questions, concerns, and confidences, and for the ABA to ask questions of the students. The ABA primarily asked about the accessibility of professors, clinical programs, the evening program and the availability of externships. Students voiced concerns about the credit to work ratio for courses like litigation and RWA, but rallied behind the value of the education, citing a responsive and supportive faculty who is enthusiastic and accessible. Both day and evening students noted that the diversity and integration of the full time and part time programs enhanced their understanding and perspective of the law. Gil Howard, a member of the team, assured students that the ABA is not visiting to revoke accreditation, but to open a constructive dialogue on how the COL can be improved.

PILA Auction 2007

Most Successful Auction in the Event's History!

By Nicole DeVries

What would you give for a meal with professor Stephens, a relaxing weekend at a beach house, a pair of Air Tran tickets, a heart shaped chocolate cake, or a pair of battery powered socks? The answers were found at the 15th annual PILA auction held on February 17, 2006. An estimated \$17,947 was raised with the help of hundreds of donations, volunteer support, a dedicated event team, and, of course, generous bidders to make it one of the most successful auctions in the event's history.

Mardi Gras spirit filled the air as over 380 guests perused silent auction items, dined, and enjoyed jazz at The Georgia Freight Depot. The rush to enter final bids on silent auction items meant the live auction was soon to begin. Auctioneer Patrick Kunes kicked the bidding off with a pair of Air Tran tickets, followed by Dean Sobelson, inspiring professors, students, and alumni alike to get into the giving spirit. Of course the evening wouldn't have been complete without the melodic crooning of Dean Timmons, the much anticipated winner of professor karaoke. "I'm already saving up for next year!" exclaimed Lisamarie Bristol, 1L.

The 2007 auction touted some notable enhancements including an increase in guest capacity and funds raised. The talented jazz trio, eclectic street lamps, glittering table decorations, and Mardi Gras masks were donated by the alumni association in conjunction with the 2007 reunion event held across the hall. The partnership was a unique opportunity for the alumni, faculty, and students to celebrate together.

The proceeds of the annual auction fund the PILA fellowship program which assists students who want to work in the public sector during the summer, but would otherwise be unable to do so. Last year the program funded 4 full-time and 3 part-time posi-

tions. The deadline to apply for a fellowship is Monday, March 26 at 6pm, with the Honor's Luncheon scheduled for April 4th.

If you have any questions about the application process contact Jen Kampsen at jenkampsen@aol.com. A special thanks to the auction event team, led by Katharine Fields, and to the alumni association for their continuing support.

Message from Dean Kaminshine:

When 50% of the entire student body attend an event, it demands attention -- Yes, 350 of you joined with faculty and alumni to comprise the largest and, what I suspect will be the most successful, PILA auction ever. What a splendid show of support for our public interest fellowships.

To Katharine Field, Mazie Lynn Causey, the PILA auction committee (and PILA faculty advisor, Professor Bliss): You have set the bar incredibly high for PILA auctions to follow.

And finally to our brave poet laureate, Professor Timmons, who regaled us with her personal Ode To Torts, put to the music of Lennon's "Imagine," I offer the following:

"Imagine" if you were a singer; I know it's hard to do; Tones and notes would blend together; we could sing along with you; Imagine Kelly and Basil; singing a duet ... ooo--ooo ... You may say that I'm just kidding; that these thoughts can't be for real; I hope next year that you will join me ... in buying marbles for Corneill.

Again, congratulations to all.



Nichole Hair, Dean Kaminshine and Professor Michael Landau share a smile for the camera at the 2007 PILA Auction.

Five places to use your Student ID to get a discount

By Amanda Clark

Your student ID. Otherwise known as your mug shot. (Seriously, why do we all look like a deer frozen in headlights in those things?!?). You may not like your picture but that little blue card can bring you a lot more than just access to the library. Here's a short list of places you can use your ID for a discount.

- 1. Apple** – Your student ID can get you a 5% discount on Macs at the store or online. Just show your student ID at checkout. Both Lenox Mall and Perimeter Mall have Apple Stores. Or visit the online store at: <http://store.apple.com/1-800-780-5009/WebObjects/EducationIndividual?type=higherEd>. The discount applies to other stuff too, like software and laptop bags.
- 2. J. Crew** – Lucky for us public school kids J. Crew expanded their student discount program beyond the ivy league schools. Question: if you go to an ivy league school don't you have enough money to shop at J. Crew without the student discount? The discount is 10%, is only good in stores and you have to ask for it.
- 3. The Movies** – both AMC and Regal Cinemas offer a student discount. Your wallet will thank you for using your student ID so you don't spend almost \$10 to go see "Epic Movie."
- 4. High Museum of Art** (www.high.org) – Go see "Louvre Atlanta" for \$3 less than the general public. The Musee du Louvre and the High Museum of Art have partnered to bring special exhibitions of art to the High over the next 3 years. The current exhibition features royal collections and can be viewed Tuesday through Sunday.
- 5. Sam Flax** (Paperie & Art Supplies) – This store has everything you need and lots of stuff you don't but want anyways. Where else can you buy wrapping paper that has a map of France on it? Sam Flax offers a discount for students which applies to most of the stuff in the store.

You can also visit the Panther Perqs Program Page for more vendors that offer a student discount. <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwhre/perqs/partners.htm>

Eatin' Good in Our Neighborhood

By Amanda Clark

You can only eat a Chick-Fil-A sandwich so many times during a week before you start clucking. Take a break from the GSU cafeteria and try some of these nearby restaurants that are within walking distance of the school:

- 1. Reuben's Deli**, 57 Broad Street. Try one of their signature sandwiches or design your own. Reuben's uses Boars Head meats and cheeses so you know it's going to be good. The sandwiches are generous and will easily satisfy even the biggest appetite.
- 2. Tringali's**, 94 Pryor Street. It's your 3rd year. The end is in sight. And so is a J-O-B. That pays. A lot. You just heard that some Atlanta law firms are raising their starting salaries to \$130,000 and you're feeling like Donald Trump or P. Diddy. Head over to Tringali's to enjoy authentic Italian cuisine with white linen tablecloths and a waiter!
You can view their menu online at <http://www.tringalisatlanta.com/index.html>.
- 3. Alibaba's Turkish & Mediterranean Delights**, 60 Broad Street. The name says it all. If you're looking for something a little different try Alibaba's. The food is cheap, tasty, and within walking distance. If it's a nice day you can take your Gyro Wrap and cross the street to Woodruff Park which has a reading room and Wi-Fi. Take a break from your homework and rediscover that reading can be fun!
Alibaba's: <http://www.alibabatlanta.com/lunchmenu.php>
Woodruff Park:
<http://www.atlantadowntown.com/WoodruffPark.asp>

Coming
 Soon:
 The Docket
 Online!

Westlaw.

Sign up for March Westlaw Certification Classes Now!

Wednesday, March 14th
CASES CERTIFICATION
 Noon, 4pm and 5pm
 6th floor Training Lab

Monday, March 19th
CASES & STATUTES CERTIFICATION 2 FOR 1!
 Noon, 4pm and 5pm
 6th floor Training Lab

Wednesday, March 21st
STATUTES CERTIFICATION
 Noon and 5pm
 Room TBA
Pizza and Soda will be served.

Wednesday, March 28th
SECONDARY SOURCES CERTIFICATION
 Noon, 4pm and 5pm
 6th floor Training Lab

To register, email Sue Moore at: sue.moore@thomson.com or sign up on lawschool.westlaw.com and click on "Check out the Westlaw Training Calendar" link.

Give us a shout!

If you've discovered a great eatery within walking distance, or know places that may offer student discounts, or want to tell us anything that may enhance our lives as students, send us an email at: slee88@student.gsu.edu. Subject line: Student Life

Students help with the search for justice

By Suzanne Lee-Jackson with excerpts from the Georgia Innocence Project website

"Sometimes the innocent victim of crime is the person convicted of one."

The Georgia Innocence Project (GIP) has adopted these words in their efforts to promote the mission to free the wrongly convicted. Since its inception, GIP has received more than 2600 letters requesting assistance. Each request is carefully reviewed to determine if the case meets their requirements. If the case meets GIP's strict scrutiny and there is DNA evidence available to test, they accept representation of the case and begin litigating the issues.

One of the biggest challenges in these cases is finding the physical evidence. Acknowledging this problem, the 2003 Georgia General Assembly created a solution. Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Mark Taylor and State Sen. David Adelman, a bill was passed allowing for post-conviction DNA testing and for the preservation of evidence. This bill passed both the House and the Senate unanimously and was signed into law by the Governor.

Exonerees

In 1999, Calvin Johnson, Jr. was freed from prison after serving 16 years of his life in a Georgia State Penitentiary for crimes he did not commit.

In August 2004, The Georgia Innocence Project's work exonerated Clarence Harrison, a man who had been sentenced to life in prison for rape, robbery and kidnapping and who had been behind bars for nearly 18 years. In 2005, the Georgia General Assembly awarded Mr. Harrison \$1 million in compensation for his wrongful imprisonment.



Cliff Williams, 3L, Intern who located the DNA evidence that exonerated Williams

In December 2005, Atlantan Robert Clark was freed from prison after serving nearly 25 years for a crime he did not commit. Mr. Clark's exoneration was a joint effort between the Georgia Innocence Project and the original Innocence Project, based in New York.

The Georgia Innocence Project, through its Life After Exoneration program, continues to work with Mr. Harrison and Mr. Clark to help them rebuild their lives.

In January 2007, Atlantan Willie O. "Pete" Williams

walked free after nearly 22 years of wrongful incarceration. On February 13, 2007, wishing Pete Williams "the best" for the rest of his life, Judge Thomas Campbell officially exonerated Mr. Williams in a hearing in Fulton County Superior Court.

Student Interns

The Georgia Innocence Project is funded almost entirely through donations, so the volunteer effort of Atlanta law students is essential. The Georgia Innocence Project, under the guidance of COL alumni Aimee Maxwell ('87), has collaborated with Georgia State to provide student externships and volunteer experiences.

It is through one of these externships that COL student, Cliff Williams, became involved with the Innocence Project. Cliff Williams is the intern who found the DNA evidence that ultimately freed Pete Williams. "Working with the Georgia Innocence Project during law school has helped guide my career path significantly. I definitely want to pursue a career in criminal defense, hopefully starting in a public defender's office somewhere in Georgia." When asked how he felt about GIP, he said, "It has been a wonderful experience and Aimee Maxwell has been a wonderful mentor." About the College of Law, he said "The College of Law is an incredible school with a talented faculty, many of whom have extensive litigation experience."

For more information on the Georgia Innocence Project or about how you can get involved, visit www.ga-innocenceproject.org.

COL Students partner with South Atlanta Academy of Law and Justice

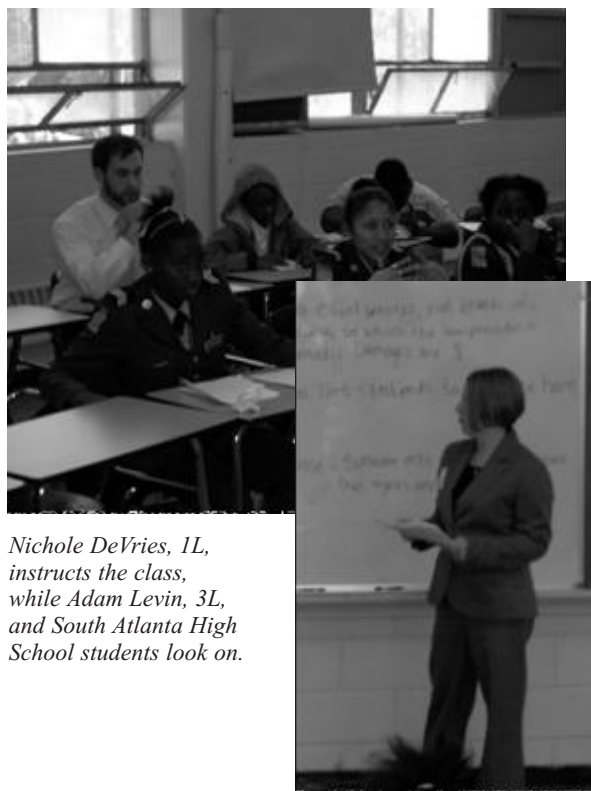
By Adam S. Levin

A conspiracy is afoot at the law school. The conspiracy involves law students, high school teachers, and even a couple of law professors. Their goal has been to infiltrate a local Atlanta high school to teach ninth graders about criminal law, torts, and any other legal topics they can push on the kids. They call their efforts Street Law.

GSU's Street Law program is part of a national effort to bring "high fallutin" legal principles to the street level. Some law schools focus their efforts on prison inmates and others focus on senior citizens. GSU has chosen to focus on a small school within a school.

The GSU program began over the summer through the collaboration of GSU law students Doug Rosenbloom, Meredith Riggs, and myself, Adam Levin, in collusion with Peter McKnight, the current director of the school at the focus of GSU's program. With the assistance of Professors Hensel and Sobelson, the program gained school support and launched its first class this past fall.

Once a topic is chosen, law student volunteers write a lesson plan and train their fellow law students on the lesson plan. From there, groups of law students are assigned to teach the different periods of classes (we usually teach about four different periods of class in a given week). Each class at the high school lasts approximately 90 minutes.



Nichole DeVries, 1L, instructs the class, while Adam Levin, 3L, and South Atlanta High School students look on.

Most of the high school students seem to value our presence not merely for the break in the monotonous school day, but also for the educational currency provided. The observation is made all the more startling by the fact that many of the high school students come from some of the toughest neighborhoods in Atlanta. The currency we bring comes in the form of, among other things, teaching the high school students note taking skills, substantive legal principles, and improving their analytical skills.

But the benefits flow both ways. When law students are forced to explain legal principles to high school students, they further cement the concepts in their own minds. When law students attempt to hold the attention of ninth grade students who may not have eaten a solid meal in the last 12 hours, they hone their oratory skills. When law students are asked to return by kids from broken homes, they learn the value of keeping their word.

Participation in Street Law is open to all law students. If you are interested in joining the conspiracy, contact AdamAtlanta@gmail.com.

Sue the government? For a Living???

By John Gunn

Ever thought about suing the government for constitutional rights' violations for a living? Seemed like a great public interest area of law to practice to me, so I thought I would do a little investigation.

First, the big areas of constitutional violations: Illegal police actions, pretrial detainees and job discrimination. Practically any field where government employees are the actors are areas of interest because they act under color of State law.

Well, I went to Washington D.C. last summer to spend a week with the Institute for Justice. Their first comment: "Well, you can't make a living doing that..." Hmm... this did not bode well for my new found interest. I did some research to find out why not. It turns out these cases are particularly difficult to win. In fact, one study

indicated that civil rights cases take longer, cost the plaintiff more and you will lose two to four times more often than a typical tort plaintiff!¹ In fact the study's author put it this way "the findings suggest that constitutional tort plaintiffs do significantly worse than (other) litigants in every measurable way!"² This is coupled with fewer cases, approx one successful case per 100,000 persons per year equates to about 900 successful cases in all of Georgia each year.³ Throw in a walloping dose of government immunity and a doctrine of court discretion moving away from awarding damages⁴ and you have an uphill road to hoe.

Suppose you defy the odds: you take on such a case, ultimately the government agrees you were right, changes their policy and agrees never to do it again! How about

THAT! You won, Right? Wrong. According to the Supreme Court the government merely changed their position. You lose all rights to an award of attorney fees and walk away in the hole. The client wins, but you lose. Explain that one to the mortgage company!

This is not looking good so far, but not to worry, I am meeting with a lawyer that has successfully battled in the area and won. I will let you know what I find out....

(Thanks to Professor K. Timmons for contributing her time and information to this article).

1. 71 Cornell L. Rev. 641 pp. 671-676.

2. Id. p. 677.

3. Id. p. 683.

4. 75 Va L. Rev 1117 p 1126.

... On The Other Hand

By Eric Rogers

Milton County: Really? Really!?!

A 1L professor once told me that to be an effective attorney one must be able to argue both sides of an issue. Halfway through law school we shall see how well I have developed this skill. Today's topic is a look into the implications, both good and bad, of the secession of Milton County from Fulton County. There is currently a resolution that the cities of Roswell, Alpharetta, Johns Creek, and Sandy Springs break from Fulton to form their own county.

PRO

The purpose of local government is to provide efficient and effective responses to its people's needs, and also provide a direct mode for people to voice their

grievances to people that can make a difference. The people of North Fulton feel that their county does not fulfill these needs. Fulton is a 70 mile long snake-like piece of land that meanders from the well-endowed cities of Roswell and Alpharetta to the north to the meager cities of Fairburn and Palmetto to the south. It is impossible for such an economically diverse group of people in such a large area to be properly represented by one government. The formation of Milton County would give both groups of people much more control over their daily lives, and in turn would create a more effective government.

The people of "Milton" County do not receive a fair return on their tax dollars. For every dollar paid in taxes by North Fulton residents, only 68 cents is actually reinvested in the area. Their dollars are being used to subsidize other parts of the county for things that they never use. The best thing Georgia could do is create Milton County and give the people of that area a local government that can actually represent their needs, and reinvest all of their tax dollars back into

their community; not some place 50 miles away that they will never benefit from. Some opponents of this plan say that it is based on race, as North Fulton is predominately white and South Fulton predominately black. However, the only color that the people of North Fulton are seeing right now is green.

On the other hand...

...On the other hand...

The creation of Milton County would be one of the worst things the Georgia Legislature could do since... well anything they did last year. Milton County existed once before. They joined Fulton County in 1932 in order to avoid going bankrupt. Now that times are better they want to cut and run, leaving Fulton County swinging in the wind. North Fulton is one of the most affluent areas in Georgia, has one of the best school systems, and is one of the safest areas around Atlanta. Yet somehow all of this came from a county government that is too ineffective to properly represent them? I'm not buying it. Fulton County is a suburb of Atlanta; it owes its existence and prosperity to the growth and vitality of Atlanta. They complain about having to subsidize



the south part of the county for things such as MARTA or Grady hospital, but the better off Atlanta is the better North Fulton is. The creation of more jobs in Atlanta brings more people to the area. Then, as history has shown, most new people move to the suburbs. So North Fulton should accept their responsibility in Fulton County and recognize the direct benefit they receive from a thriving Atlanta.

Uneven Grades May Create Unsavory Carrot

By Adam S. Levin

Law school class rankings and the grades on which they are based are the number one factor affecting one's ability to secure the highest paid legal jobs.¹ And even if you're not looking for the highest paid job, a stellar ranking won't hurt your job search. Law students in the habit of thinking rationally should seek out classes that give the highest grades to achieve a higher ranking. Fortunately, GSU law school administrators released a grade book that allows students to do just that.

If you didn't grade-shop before the grade book, you'd be an idiot not to now. At least, you should grade shop until the law school does something about the patently unbalanced grade distribution.

Admittedly, grade disparities between same subject classes has dissipated, but it has not disappeared. Why should law students take Professor A's class over Professor B's when the former has an average of 79.5 and the latter has an average of 85.79? Or put differently, why should average students be academically punished for taking class from Professor A, an eminently qualified professor?

While same subject classes should have, as a matter of fairness, the same average grades, so too should all classes regardless of the subject. Grades should not force law students to make decisions between classes that will boost their GPA and classes that are pertinent to their legal interests. Yet, grading disparities between

different courses will encourage students to take classes with higher median grades. While these classes are no doubt worthwhile and interesting to some students, for many others these classes offer nothing more than an improved GPA.

Certainly, I've phrased my argument as hyperbole. Not all students will take only the classes with the highest averages. Some students will take classes with low averages because they don't care about grades. Other students will take classes regardless of the average because they consistently perform above the pack. And averages don't tell the whole story. A class with 60 students could have a lower average than a 12 student class, yet give more A's, thus increasing the incentive for some high performing students to take the class with the lower average.

But statistical accuracy aside, higher averages will motivate many students to take classes in which they have little interest. Classroom discourse and student output are improved when students are genuinely interested in a class. Thus, it behooves our administration to normalize averages for all classes.²

¹ Ranking is also a highly influential factor affecting the selection of judicial clerkships, the holy grail of post-law school jobs.

² Of course, we could just do away with the grade book, but that would only place a band-aid on the problem.

THE DOCKET

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW
 140 DECATUR ST., ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
 404.651.0734 TELEPHONE



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