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Villanova University Belle Air Yearbook - Law School Excerpt - 1989

Class of 1989

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The Villanova School of Law has celebrated the law mass, also known as the Red Mass, since 1957. The Mass is offered to invoke the divine blessing upon the legal profession in general and the Villanova School of Law, specifically.

The tradition of the red mass dates back to 13th century Europe when it was celebrated to ask for guidance for all judges, legislators, teachers and students of law. The name of the mass comes from the red vestments worn by the celebrants. Red also reflects the color of the Holy Spirit.

This year's law mass was held on November 5 in St. Mary's chapel. The presider and homilist was the president of Villanova, the Reverend Edmund S. Dobbin, O.S.A. The concelebrants were members of the Order of St. Augustine.

Music was provided by the Women's Glee Club, under the direction of Dr. Lewis Gordon, and the Singers, who were directed by Ms. Adrienne Torisi. John Dunphy, director of Music Activities, and Gary Stegall, director of pastoral music, also contributed their talents to the mass.

The Main Chapel has been the sight for the Red Mass in former years. Due to confusion in booking, this year's law mass was held in St. Mary's chapel and was celebrated by the Reverend Edmund S. Dobbin, O.S.A.

Many hours of preparation went into the traditional celebration. The Women's Glee Club practiced extensively with the skillful direction of Dr. Lewis Gordon to deliver the high caliber of music they perform each year.
A Case History

The Continuance of Traditional Excellence with an Augustinian Touch

Tucked away inconspicuously in a corner of campus is Villanova University’s School of Law, but despite its underrated facade, the Law School is truly a distinguished component of the university academic community. Its mission since its inception thirty years ago has been to provide the maximum opportunity for students to develop a comprehensive understanding of Anglo-American law in the Common Law tradition, as well as knowledge of federal and state statutory and administrative developments required by the modern lawyer. The curriculum is broadly based and responsive to the needs of modern law practice.

The element most responsible for legal education at the Law School is the faculty. Time and time again, Villanova’s faculty has been recognized nationally for legal scholarship and teaching abilities. Faculty members are available outside the classroom and fulfill their responsibilities to students in a holistic fashion. Every student has a faculty advisor. This experience is but one manifestation of the total commitment and concern for students critical to the Law School community.

In its continual efforts to keep up with the times, Villanova Law has added a computer law program to its curriculum, taking very seriously the benefits that computer use can bring to law practice. Every student attains a minimum level of computer literacy in the first year legal writing program. The Law School has microcomputers for students to use for wordprocessing, completing Computer Aided Legal Instruction (CALI) exercises, and other academic applications. The school offers several seminars which require computer use, and each year there are a number of courses that require CALI exercises to reinforce material covered through more traditional techniques, and expose students to computer methods such as spreadsheet analysis to facilitate legal problem solving.

Another one of the Law School’s many assets is its 321,000 volume library. Only a small number of law schools in the country have libraries comparable to the Villanova Law Library. Villanova Law Library was created under the direction of the late Arthur Clement Pulling, the former Harvard Law School library director, renowned as the leading law librarian in the United States when he undertook the design and direction of the Villanova Law Library. The Pulling tradition of modern law librarianship has continued.

Thus, the evidence of remarkable development in legal education at the Law School is conclusive. The proof of Villanova’s success can be found in the lives of its students and the lives of its graduates, who today are in the largest and most prestigious law firms throughout the country. They are senior partners, judges, district attorneys and general counsel for major banks and other corporate institutions. In addition, they serve the poor in legal service agencies, committing themselves to providing their time, effort and skills to help carry the burdens of others in the Augustinian tradition.

by Brad Leve

Suzanne M. Fisher
John Fleming
David Fournier
Joseph Fowler
William Fox

Robyn Farrell
Joseph Fenlin
Matthew Ferretti
John Fiorillo
Philip Fisher

Ellen Frank
Barbara Fruehauf
Thomas Gallagher
Mark Garzia
George Gbur

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Garey hall houses the School of Law which is located inconspicuously near west campus. Its graduates work in the largest and most prestigious law firms throughout the country.

In conjunction to the broadly based education law students receive, there are hours of endless study involved. This second-year student learns this Augustinian tradition firsthand in the law library amid piles of notes.

Michael Gehring
Laura A. Genovese
Mary-Jo Gibdorf
James Glenn
Robert Glickman

Cynthia Gough
Blair Granger
Donna Gravasukie
Francis Grey
Ethan Halberstadt

Christopher Halka
H. Hardie
Leon Hart
Stephen Harvey
Robert Hecht
Mocking the Law

But that Doesn’t Mean you Can’t Take it Seriously

The Mock Court is a competition which is run each year for those enrolled in the Villanova Law School. The competition is conducted by the Mock Court Board. This is a student run organization for pupils who have outstandingly excelled in written and oral skills during the Mock Court I program. The members of this committee are required to participate in at least one mock trial competition. This is not to be considered a trial, it is more of a learning experience to enhance the student’s knowledge of how to appeal cases presented to them. It is here where the students must use their own wits to create a strategy beneficial to their argument. The Mock Court Board is faculty supervised and provides the law student with an opportunity to encounter hands-on experience. This type of experience makes the Law School graduates very well qualified and prestigious in their field.

There is also the Reimel Mock Court Competition where students present appellate arguments before judges and lawyers. A final argument is presented at the end of the year before a panel of judges who select a winning team. Villanova’s students consistently have been very successful in the National Trial competition in which they are given the opportunity to participate in a complete trial against opponents from other law schools.

by Stacey Bailey

While many law students find their first exposure to the courtroom an intimidating experience, the Mock Court system finely tunes these individuals. This type of learning experience prepares a student to successfully appeal a case.

Michael McKeever
Kevin McLean
Marie Michel
Shari Miller
Noel Matisopoulos

Brad A. Molotsky
Joseph Monaco
Kevin S. Moreno
John Molldowney
William Mundy

Sandra Namey-Richards
Maria Niehr
LoriJean G. Oei
Michael Olley
Sean O’Mara
First Year Fright

The first days are the hardest days...

So...you want to be a lawyer, eh? Well, get set for some high anxiety! As an undergraduate, one did not respect or appreciate humiliation in front of one's class. Surprise! You will soon learn in your first few months at law school that here it is the norm. Your social life rapidly drowns in pools of unknown vocabulary and mountains of notes. Ah, yes, the notes! All there for you to absorb by the shelf-full! The language is different and foreign and becomes more confusing than ancient sand-script. Most students would rather forget their first year at law school; especially their first exam. You start out with a little anxiety until it builds to all-entrusive PRESSURE! In order to get through this traumatic period successfully, one must be willing to forfeit the comfort of reading in bed for a newly found intimacy with the library late into the evening. You soon begin to appreciate those long-lost lazy afternoons of studying in front of the soaps.

There is a scenario which may be all too familiar for some out there during your first year. Your mother needs to periodically flip through family photos — she has completely forgotten what you look like. By living in, around, and intimately close to your desk, you slowly lose your grip on reality. You get short glimpses of your roommates after they come running from your screams of "Coffee! More coffee!" You suddenly find yourself bellowing for your favorite caffeinated drink in the strangest of places — at the mall, in the drugstore and even in bed at night. (This is appreciated by no one.) The fated day of the exam finally arrives. Although nervous and tense, you are at least wide awake. This you attribute to your daily vitamin. (Your roommates attribute it to the twenty cups of coffee.) Horror strikes quickly, you are awake because you have overslept by three hours! It is now One o'clock in the afternoon. The exam! Aaargh! It was to begin at eleven. Only one thought goes through your head, the last line on the syllabus "...this exam will not be given twice, so please arrive promptly..." It is the end of your life as you know it. Wait! An excuse! Excuses start racing through your head ... broken limbs ... sick grandmother ... frontal lobotomy ... dead cat ... and suddenly a vision of your cat Fluffy Puffy under the wheels of your professor's car jerks you awake. You feel your body in a cold sweat and notice your book has slid to the floor. It is 4:07 a.m., nowhere close to exam time. Fluffy Puffy is safely curled up on your bed. It was all a bad dream; a mind-boggling, future-wretching bad dream. There is plenty of time. You give a sigh as you check the clock once more.

by Sylvia DeSantis
As anyone who has been through it (or who has at least seen The Paper Chase) knows, law students go through years of what sometimes feels like torture. What many non-lawyers may not know, however, is that the fun does not end at graduation. There remains one more obstacle for would-be attorneys to tackle: the state bar exam.

According to Richard DiStefano, a 1985 Law School graduate who is now a practicing attorney from Berwyn, Pa., many people choose to take their exams in July, as soon after graduation in May as possible. Most prepare by taking an intensive Bar Review course, popularly known as "cram school." In this course, all of the material learned in law school is compressed into six weeks, with a special emphasis placed on state law. The experience is similar to the SAT prep courses that many people take in high school, giving the student self-confidence in order to succeed.

The Pennsylvania State Bar exam is given twice a year, in July and February, over a two-day period. On the first day, one has to answer eight essay questions about Pennsylvania state law. One is given 45 minutes to answer each question, and must use a different color-coded pad of paper for each answer. On the second day, one is given 200 multiple-choice questions about "multi-state" law. This part of the exam is the same in all states.

After the ordeal of the exam, there is, of course, the almost unbearable wait for the results. In Pennsylvania you are given your grades about three months after the exam. New Jersey takes a little longer (5 months) because their grading system is more complicated. The minimum score for the Pennsylvania bar is 135 on the multi-state (120 if your exams are good); in New Jersey, one must get 9 out of 15 essays right.

Once you have passed the state bar, you are qualified to plead a case before the State Supreme Court, as well as state superior and appellate courts. Also, one is admitted to the Federal district court of your area. If one wants to go all the way to top and plead cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, one has to wait 3 years after passing the state bar, request the Court's permission and pay a fee of $100.

As one can see, the process of becoming a full-fledged lawyer is, to put it mildly, not easy. But once one passes that bar, the personal and professional rewards more than repay the effort.

by John Beeler
The Law School Library offers excellent resources for law students to utilize. These first year law students find the library a convenient place to collaborate together.

Would-be lawyers realize the hours put into study are tremendous. Ambitious law students, such as this student, put in long, tedious hours in the hope of a decent score on the bar.