Dean Proposes Plan For Future

Q. Dean O’Brien, in a recent meeting with representatives of student groups you expressed concern over the negative publicity relating to the Villanova Law School: What will you do to expand on this?

A. The initial inquiry is whether it is necessary or even desirable for us to spend the time, energy and money necessary to improve the reputation of the Villanova Law School? After all, the School has a fine academic program which discharges very well its primary function, that is, the training of lawyers. We have had extraordinary success in gaining the respect of the practicing bar in our geographical region. Large numbers of well-qualified men and women continue to apply for admission. Our placement record is superior.

One can argue, and some do, that we should have a well enough good name that we should concentrate on making our courses better, our teachers more effective and expand our student services. I also believe we should do all those things, but they are not enough. There are legitimate interests which are not properly served if our view is too parochial.

Q. What specific needs have prompted your attention to the national image of Villanova?

A. Consider the needs of our students and graduates for the ability to practice in places outside our geographical area of influence. It is extremely important that when they in practice, the students have representation in the courts, the legislatures, government agencies, or whatever, in Villanova Law School. Also other law schools in other states in which they have an interest, that they be received with the knowledge that Villanova University has a law school, and that the Law School is an exceptionally fine Law School. Consider the need of the Law School to continue to attract extraordinarily gifted people from practice to teach our students. There are many difficulties in this area, insufficient compensation being one of them, but our chances of attracting good people are better if we are nationally known and those who know us think well of us.

Consider the need of the Law School to continue to attract well qualified men and women for our faculty to teach. The ultimate strength of the Law School lies with its faculty and students and the ultimate strength of our profession depends on the quality of our lawyers. It is well known that the pool of candidates from which law schools draw their students will soon begin to diminish dramatically. The wider our reputation for excellence, the better our chances for continuing to attract the best candidates from the diminishing pool.

Q. Considering the geographic diversity of students and alumni of the Law School, wouldn’t you say we either are or are not known?

A. We are well known, but not necessarily widely known wherever our graduates practice. None of us should ever forget that it has been the success of our graduates in practice that has earned for us the excellent reputation we enjoy. A small number of graduates practicing in a state will earn us a favorable and receptive climate among those with whom they have come in contact. But the needs of our graduates are more extensive. I hasten to add that in placement matters, we try to put our students in touch with the graduates practicing in the state in which the students are interested.

Faculty publication has also earned for us national recognition. In most instances, however, as I am certain you know, those writings do not result from either the general practitioner or other states or the public. They do not, therefore, solve the problems by putting together finding employment outside our region or help us to attract promising faculty candidates and students.

We are well known nationally in academic circles and while that is very useful to us, if we are not known to the members, we do not help solve our other problems.

Q. Dean O’Brien, you have made it clear that publicity is necessary and that our current media exposure is inadequate. How do you propose to improve the situation?

A. First and foremost, we must publicize our strengths: the excellence of our faculty and, derivatively, the excellence of our J.D. program. I have asked some members of the faculty, and soon I will ask others, to identify those subject areas of primary concern to them which might be of national interest. It is my hope to find external financial support to permit those faculty members to pursue their concerns through such devices as institutes, lectures and symposia. The work would be conducted in various cities and states with very careful attention being paid to securing as much favorable publicity as possible. Many members of our faculty are bright enough, experienced enough and tough enough to be helpful in addressing some of the seemingly intractable problems of the law and I believe they should get on with that work.

Another way to publicize the school is by the creation of programs which are useful to the society in which we live. For example, I am now exploring the possibility of having prepared a course for use in senior high schools throughout the country which would, using somewhat advanced telecommunications techniques, teach young people things about the law they really should know. I confess that in the process I would also like to teach respect for law. I might add here, parenthetically, that one of the goals of this program is to help minority group applicants to the Law School. Three are other programs that I have in mind and I am certain that a number of our students are interested in those ideas. I would be delighted to hear from them.

Still another way to publicize the school is by personal contact. I spend a considerable amount of time each year at bar association and other kinds of meetings, sometimes participating on panels and sometimes just "showing the flag." It is occasionally useful in the placement effort. It is always helpful in keeping practitioners aware of the fact that Villanova Law School is very interested in attracting faculty, students, teachers, it does not help solve our other problems.

Another way to publicize the school is through the recruitment of students from other states. At Villanova Law School, a majority of our students are from the greater Philadelphia area. While many colleges are disadvantaged, the usual hypothesis has been to go away to college and come home to study law. (I might add here, parenthetically, that that is the national experience. In some of the cases in which we have attracted students from other parts of the country, students have found this area to be so attractive that they stay on after graduation. It is nice to have them here but it does not help to broaden our national base.

We do recruit rather extensively, an expensive and difficult undertaking even though we do use alumni in some instances, but there are some states in which we have not had much success. Mrs. Manoff and I discussed earlier this year targeting particular universities in those states. I will personally recruit at some schools not presently covered and we will test the results. I am not unmindful of the fact that I have not yet spoken of the role of the students in publicizing the value of the Law School.

There was a time when the SBA sponsored a lecture series each year, but that was discontinued and other activities substituted sometime ago. I would very much like to see the SBA participate and I intend to discuss the matter with the SBA president and secure his support. Understand if you have a good idea, I would be delighted to hear it.

Reflections on Sadat

By Andrew Demarest

At the conclusion of the Camp David negotiations, Anwar Sadat said, "There will be no more bloodshed between Arab and Israeli." Reflections on the passing of such a leader, must include an examination of his capacity for growth and courage.

First, we cannot forget that Sadat was an autocrat, i.e., an absolute ruler. It is sheer romanticism to portray the fallen Egyptian as a pioneer in the realm of civil rights. His recent jailing of Moslem fundamentalists highlights the autocrat's fear of vibrant, opposing viewpoints. Nevertheless, to judge Sadat on this action alone would be to overlook the complexities political and cultural history of his land. Egypt has never been a fertile region for democratic beliefs. The country was spawned by a great king, in 3100 B.C. Indeed, he was a Pharaoh, a TOMPUS.

The VLS faculty recently approved administration of quizzes in the Debtor Creditor Relations course. The faculty vote was based on a report which is unavailable to students. Student influence was limited to the tabulation results of surveys taken of students in last year's class.
Letter to the Editor:

I have been teaching law and giving Bar Review classes for the last 15 years, and on the basis of this experience I would like to make a suggestion as to how the Multistate Bar Exam could be improved. One of the inadvertent factors which has come into the Multistate Exam is the necessity for extreme speed in making decisions as to complicated factual and legal problems. Since this the Exam is being administered, it seems as if that a way could be found to eliminate this factor, which I believe is the reason for the necessity for speed in the Exam, this should be done.

I suggest as how this can be done is to make separate Exams for separate groups of people, similar to what has been done for the MBE portion of the Multistate Responsibility Exam; that is to say, have 50 questions on each subject, and give 2 hours for each subject. The separate Exams could be given after law school semesters end, and allow for the study of each subject at large. More detailed advertisements are allowed, please contact the Docket office for details.

THE Docket is published by the students of Villanova Law School, Villanova University, Villanova Pa. 19085. Letters and articles are welcomed from students, faculty, and alumni. All letters and advertisements are accepted, please contact the Docket office for details.

THE

Lawyer's Guild Sponsors El Salvador Symposium

By Jim Malone

During the second weekend of October the Villanova Lawyer's Guild sponsored an event which demonstrated two of the Guild's primary functions. El Salvador Symposium on El Salvador was sponsored in keeping with the Guild's legal interests. Those interests in South and Central America was likened to the unsuccessful policy followed in El Salvador. This Symposium was an important source of information on important subject.

The El Salvador Symposium featured a film, Revolution or Death, which was made by Dutch nationals with the support of the World Council of Churches. The film focused upon two aspects of the situation in El Salvador: the interest of the U.S. in creating stability, even at the cost of human rights and popular sovereignty, and the slow, steady progression that the ruling junta has made towards more repressive policies. The film pointed out that the U.S. actually is involved in maintaining the stability of the Caribbean, which has traditionally seen as an American sphere of influence. In addition, the scope of repression and institutional violence in El Salvador has been drastically increased. At the peaceful demonstration against the junta, government forces sprayed poison on the demonstrators from airplanes. Official of the Catholic archdiocese estimated that in the first two months of 1981 alone, the junta's security forces "exterminated" over 400 persons—over eleven a day.

Caucus Dinner

The Women's Law Caucus will host a dinner program on Nov. 16, 1981, 6 to 9 p.m., in the cafeteria. The dinner is $10, including a raffle for a chance to win a very limited edition of the Encyclopedia of V.L.S. who will discuss their areas of specialty and women's opps. in their field. Tickets, $4.00, will be sold by caucus members.

Admin Note

A new program designed to give law students first-hand knowledge of administrative law proceedings has been launched by the American Bar Association's Conference of Administrative Law Judges. The conference, part of the ABA's Administrative Law Section, is working with the Association of American Law Schools and members of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. They will encourage administrative law judges who are members of the ABA to hold actual hearings in the most courts of law schools and, when time permits, to discuss with professors and students the law involved in the hearings.

Phonathon

The annual phonathon for the benefit of the law school will be held a semester earlier this year. Traditionally, a spring semester fundraiser, this year's Phonathon will begin on Monday, Oct. 26, and run through Wednesday, Nov. 25, 1981.

The night's "work" begins with winning and enthusiasm. The better the heartiest appetite has been appeased, the entourage will move to room 12 to begin this crucial session.

While alumnae do return to the old alma mater and wave their arms about their t-shirt torso, sort of like a branch waving in the autumn breeze. He eventually moves to California and wears leisure suits. He'll turn a red Mercedes coupe, a tropical resort, a hut and'll eat lunch quite often. Sometimes three times a day. He'll eventually retire to go cross country, in a van after imprisonment on a contempt of court charge for unsuccessfully trying to answer a question in court by saying to the judge: "Hey get outta here yer honor. I love ya. I get lawyer for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Have my service call your service. O.K. man," Years later, he'll reflect to his law school friends with a mixture of feeling and the feel and I decided to go with it.

Legal Briefs

There's also the laid back kind of guy who raises his hand every once in a while and waves it coolly and calmly about his t-shirt torso, sort of like a branch waving in the autumn breeze. He eventually moves to California and wears leisure suits. He'll turn a red Mercedes coupe, a tropical resort, a hut and'll eat lunch quite often. Sometimes three times a day. He'll eventually retire to go cross country, in a van after imprisonment on a contempt of court charge for unsuccessfully trying to answer a question in court by saying to the judge: "Hey get outta here yer honor. I love ya. I get lawyer for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Have my service call your service. O.K. man," Years later, he'll reflect to his law school friends with a mixture of feeling and the feel and I decided to go with it.

By Anthony Green

In the last few years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of the issue of speed in the Multistate Bar Exam or in any kind of exam taking. The Multistate Bar Exam is a test of the graduate student's ability to handle a large amount of information in a short period of time. This is achieved by having the student work on the exam in a time-limited manner. The student is given a certain amount of time to complete the exam and is not allowed to go back and change answers.

The Multistate Bar Exam is designed to be a fair test of a law student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner. The exam is designed to measure the student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner. The exam is designed to measure the student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner. The exam is designed to measure the student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner. The exam is designed to measure the student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner. The exam is designed to measure the student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner. The exam is designed to measure the student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner. The exam is designed to measure the student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner. The exam is designed to measure the student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner. The exam is designed to measure the student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner. The exam is designed to measure the student's ability to handle information in a time-limited manner.
Ruggers Hang Tough

Garey Hall Update: Suggestility, Giving, for the first time anywhere, equally stellar impersonations of doctors Van Gogh, which was followed by the games and two unfortunately identical 6-3 kicks by placekicker/hooker (now healed Tom Sarisky and John McCusker, Moriarity, Jim Rosato, a revitalized and Andy Bramnick, and fly-half Art Sagnor. The following Saturday, having gone through a lethargic Thursday practice, the PCOM, team, smarting from a not-too-gradual at­

...turn in the first half of the penalty kick by placekicker/hooker (now don't get excited girls) Jim Miller whose soccer-style kicks have given Garey Hall some much needed consistency (a kick in the pants as it were) in both the scrum and the kicking game. Three points however, was all that could be mustered as PCOM, its annual Homecoming game. Playing through a lethargic Thursday practice, the Garey Hall was plagued by entire game, Garey Hall was plagued by

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By Marie Vastrecher

Bill Cannon, the Democratic candidate for the District Attorney's Office of Philadelphia, realizes he has a difficult road ahead due to Ed Rendell's popularity. However, he believes Rendell's popularity can be attributed more to the D.A.'s success in terms of handling the office, than to Rendell's ability to effectively run the office.

Cannon believes that though Rendell has succeeded as a self-promoter and politician, he has failed as a prosecutor and administrator.

According to Cannon's campaign office, the number of felony cases won to lose cases has increased every year since Ed Rendell became District Attorney. Cannon has given political causes a higher priority than murder, rape, and other felony cases.

Cannon points out that significant cases could be lost because of the D.A.'s failure to give a successful speedy trial. The prosecutor has six months to bring a case to trial under Pennsylvania's Rule 1100 — the 180 day rule. But in 1980, Rendell's office filed a petition to extend that time period in some 4000 cases, and that this number is the all the more significant considering that the average case in Common Pleas Court is listed for trial within 45 days of arrest, and re-listed following a continuance in about a month. Thus, according to Cannon, Rendell's assistant D.A.'s in the Type Unit were charged with bringing to court. In addition, according to Commissioner Solomon, between March and December of 1980, only 10% of police officers called to testify in criminal cases did so on the scheduled day.

Solomon states that part of the reason for the excessive backlog is Rendell's "politically advantageous" position as a jeep-herding in Common Pleas Court. According to Cannon, and in the opinion of a number of former prosecutors and law enforcement commentators, such a blanket policy in a major metropolitan area is folly.

CannonBackdrop.com, which works to provide information to the public, is the headquarters of the Cannon Campaign office, sources within the system indicate that Rendell relies solely on his unit chiefs to monitor the performance of assistant district attorneys in the courtroom, as the unit chiefs rarely leave their offices to personally observe the quality of preparation and presentation by inexperienced assistents. Thus, Cannon states, "These unprepared, ill-prepared prosecutors are unable to handle such complex cases as lossing cases to more seasoned assistants. There was a time, according to Cannon, when half of the city's trial lawyers were on extended leave and were not left to work for the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and entered private practice, handling criminal defense cases as well as civil cases.

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