Villanova Black Law Student Association Panel Talks About "Summer Vacation"

By Latanier Lemelle-Richard

The Black Law Students Association of Villanova University sponsored an informal panel discussion entitled "How I Spent My Summer Vacation," on Wednesday, November 15. Students in attendance received valuable information on summer employment opportunities. The speakers were comprised of Villanova Law students, primarily second & third years, who volunteered their time and insight in hopes of helping someone in their unending search for the perfect summer job. The panel discussion provided an excellent forum for employment leads. Information on a wide array of opportunities was presented by the 10 speakers. Guest speakers included Sari Brauman-Facenda, who worked in Chester County under the VCLS Program, Melaney Payne, who worked at the U.S. Department of Labor, Deborah Robinson, who worked at the Philadelphia School District, and Fabia Warlis, who stayed on at Villanova this summer and worked as a research assistant for Professor Carrasco. Other speakers were Jerel Hopkins, Sheldon Rennie, and Natasha Blain. Hopkins worked at the Securities and Exchange Commission in Philadelphia, while Rennie, as a recipient of the Louis L. Redding Fellow, spent the first part of his summer as a law clerk for the Supreme Court of Delaware, and the remainder of the summer working for an insurance defense law firm. Blain told of her summer abroad in London as she took 2 classes at a local university.

Additional speakers included Karin Gunter, Natasha Dorcus and Pam Janus. Gunter worked for the U.S. District Court for Eastern Division of PA. in the summer following her first year, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the State of DE after her second year. Both Natasha and Pam worked as a Martin Luther King Jr. Fellows, in different counties, providing much needed legal assistance to indigent clients.

With all of the experience and helpful insight offered by the panelists, the event was an unqualified success. Consequently, those attending the panel discussion were very impressed by the speakers, and said that they felt a renewed sense of confidence in the job market. After hearing about the panelists' successes in landing prestigious law-related summer jobs, those in attendance were more than optimistic that the right job was just waiting out there for them.

What we've wrought this month:

Need to get a new computer? Get your specs here: page 4
Find out what's in store for exams and for the holidays:
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Docket Editor whines! page 3.
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What more could you possibly want?

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Villanova Set For ABA Re-accreditation Visit

By Robin A. Longaker

With exams looming overhead, it is good to know that the students aren't the only ones who are going to be tested. The Villanova University School of Law is preparing to participate in the American Bar Association’s substantial re-accreditation process. The ABA is recognized as the official accreditor of law schools. Every seven years, the ABA selects a school to undergo a self-study. Villanova’s Law School is preparing to participate in the process, including gathering data and assessing the progress of the law school since the last ABA evaluation. The Self-Study Committee is in the process of drafting its report, which will be shared with the general community for discussion and feedback to Villanova. The participants spent the two days discussing and assessing the law school. “It was a very active, lively, participatory event,” said Frankino.

After the retreat, a Self-Study Committee was formed. The Committee, chaired by Professor John Murphy enabled Villanova to gather data and assess the progress of the law school since the last ABA evaluation. The Self-Study Committee is in the process of drafting its report, which will be shared with the general community for discussion and critique.

“We are always in a process of self-study,” said Dean Bregan. “This just gives us the opportunity to look at ourselves in a more formal way...This makes us step back and make plans for the future...”

Dean Frankino echoed her sentiments. “The most useful [part of the ABA review] is that it gives us an opportunity to look at ourselves from the opinions of legal educators across the United States,” said Frankino. “It gives us the opportunity to evaluate or strengths and weaknesses...It’s useful...”
Most of us law people will become great communicators, as there was something that could be done about it. Neither person was at fault. Yet this communication caused misunderstanding, and both people ended up being frustrated. These differences in the way men and women communicate are very much a product of the different ways that men and women experience the world. It starts very young, with gender awareness. One of the first things that a four year old experiences, and learns is that she can be either male or female, and her roles would be either male or female.
Are You in the Market for a Personal Computer?

by Scott M. Kleeman, Computer & Technology Editor

Could you imagine having to write your first year legal memorandum, or worse yet, a brief for the Reinelt Moot Court competition, on an old-fashioned manual typewriter? Well, believe it or not, some people actually had to actually had to write that way, carefully hunting and pecking and striking the keys hard enough to make an impression on the paper, careful not to make a mistake and risk starting over from the beginning.

Before computers became more or less commonplace in law school, law students all over the world had to type all of their briefs, memos and outlines this way. But not today - we have computers at our disposal, and while we won't write that most court brief for you at the last minute, they do make editing text a breeze. Not to mention access to Westlaw, Lexis and on-line services like America Online, CompuServe or Prodigy. Don't forget the ability to waste time playing video games instead of working on that Contracts outline.

So what kind of computer system do I need? I'm glad you asked because here's a couple of suggestions in getting the best system your budget can afford. I've broken down these suggestions into three categories: The Beginner, The Game Player, and The Expert and added rough pricing guidelines that might help.

The Beginner (cost: somewhere around $1,000 and $1,500)

This system is the one for someone who is thinking of buying their first computer system. Let's start with the CPU (Central Processing Unit) or the brain of the computer. The CPU should be at least a 75mhz Pentium processor, but if you can find a fast 486 out there you will save a lot of money. A 15, or larger monitor will be sufficient if you are going to use the system for word processing or surfing the Net, but you might want to consider a larger monitor if you are going to work with graphics or play games. Next you will want to make sure that you have at least 4 to 8 megabytes of RAM (Random Access Memory), but if you have some money left over, splurge for extra. The operating system you use will depend on what kind of computer system you are used to, (basically just stick with whatever you are used to,) but with the latest advent of Windows '95 the two systems are pretty much alike.

To any of the above systems you will most likely need to add a printer. An excellent choice is the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 600 which is a monochrome printer and that will cost you somewhere between $300 and $400. This printer will print about one to two pages per minute. For an additional $40 you can make the DeskJet 600 a color printer which is nice, but not necessarily the most useful item. If you want a laser printer you could consider the Hewlett-Packard 3P or 5MP which will give you faster printing, sharper output, but will also cost you between $800 to $2,000.

Other Goodies:

Some other goodies that you might want to consider to include with your system are software like Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or any other word processing programs that are out there. Depending on where you buy your computer system software may or may not be included; something that you will want to ask the salesperson about. Other goodies to consider are stereo speakers which are useful if you have a video card and a scanner to put an end to needless typing.

Conclusion

One thing to remember is that with a computer system, more is better. If you can afford to get more memory or a larger hard drive, do it now and save yourself money rather than upgrading later. One last thing to keep in mind is that you don't have to buy a name brand computer either. Stores like Micro Center or Comp USA carry their own brands, and as long as you can bring the system back to the store where you bought it for repairs, you shouldn't have any problems. If anyone out there has any questions please feel free to e-mail me at: scottmk@osolys.com.
Sagittarius (November 23-December 21):
and keep in mind that jello molds rarely last

Capricorn (December 22-January 19):
Your vice of squandering money has left you

Aquarius (January 20-February 19):
by Rachelle L. Popowitz

Pisces (February 20-March 20):
and you have any kind of writing talent,
(writing the MEMO satisfies the talent requirement)
then write a column for the DOCKET.

We will take anyone! In particular anyone who can write a humor column. Believe me, we need some humor around here. Contact Dave
via e-mail at: DKWEE or call (610)964-9188.

In The News
Balancing the Budget - A Serious Game
by Jean Horton

In many ways the concept of balancing the budget is but a mirage, an illusion. Proposals require reliance upon projected figures of an unknown future. Changing social, economic, and political trends wreak havoc on budgetary forecasts. The final, decisions are likely to be modified or abolished altogether during the upcoming seven year period. Still, the budget is serious business, as evidenced by the six-day government shutdown at a cost to taxpayers of 800 million dollars with the possibility of more to come if a decision cannot be reached by December 15, 1995 when the temporary spending authority now in place expires.

The debate provides an opportunity for the country to examine its values. Americans believe many things in theory, that often become muddled in practice by the terms of monetary policy, and fiscal policy. The question we now must ask is - Who, or what, must be sacrificed to the God of our economy in order that we may receive its blessings in the future. No one likes the answers, politicians least of all. Public opinion polls taken over the years indicate that while the public is in favor of a balanced budget, it does not approve of the politicians who work to further the cause.

The Republican Congress, not surprisingly, favors reducing social program spending, like education and Medicare, and granting tax cuts to benefit the wealthy. President Clinton seeks for the Democrats, promising to veto the proposal. The president would like to wash his hands of the budget and let the people cast their vote with the upcoming presidential election. The people are likewise right on cue in response to budgetary politics. A new CNN poll shows Clinton's popularity has increased and surpasses that of Dole, the leading, proposed Republican candidate.

The current debate over the budget is really a struggle to define terms. Unfortunately, no one seems to be speaking the same language. The hypothetical nature of the task allows for unbounded ambiguity and points up the impossibility of isolating the unknown. It is hopeful that someone understands our economy and the choices that need to be made, but this is not apparent from the variety of discourse on the subject. The great budgetary debate is more like a mirror within our political system; in it, we are forced to take a hard look at ourselves. Do we like what we see?
Well, everyone, welcome to the first of hopefully a long line of Villanova Law Docket Quizzes! This is a little something that I swiped from my college newspaper, and it seemed to work for them. Every issue, I, the Quizmaster, will write one of these little quizzes and you, the students, faculty and staff try to answer the questions. Not only is this fun, however. There will be prizes! (Well, prize. Once a month.) Right now, I understand the powers that be are looking for a corporate sponsor for this thing, but this month, we’re kind of overlooking it. Some work better than others. Don’t worry, you won’t get them all; they don’t call me quizmaster for nothing.

Optional Disclaimer Type Stuff

First and foremost, these lyrics are all copyright their respective copyright holders, and I make no claim to them. (Check out 49 and ask why I would want to.) Anyway, I figure this is fair use, but don’t do anything with this put to yourself in trouble. Then go buy all the albums.

Second, I suppose it is possible that I messed up some of the lyrics. I got them right through this, and my best where I had to. They’re close, anyway. Deal with it.

Third, the powers that be have decided that for this quiz (and this quiz only) there is going to be multiple winners for this, depending on the difficulty of the question. It doesn’t matter/What you had for lunch. Therefore, you have a better chance of winning, and b) the artist who perpetrated them upon us. It doesn’t matter/What you had for lunch. Therefore, you have a better chance of winning.

Editors (except for the big guy) ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER. This means because only Rich and I know who I am, and there was one else involved in this quiz’s creation. In the future, the editors can play, but can’t win. Rich and I alone will judge this one. Call it a test run.

The winner will be the entry with the most points, with one point used for each correct title and one for each correct artist (total possible points = 100). Ties will be broken by a random drawing from our editor’s fuzzy black hat. The prize this month: I’m not sure, but I’m shooting for a $20 gift certificate to a local record store, so you can increase your music collection.

BY THE WAY, the two bonus questions at the end don’t count, but they are a good way to get your name in the paper if you get them right.

Good Luck!

1. Last night I watched the news from Washington, the capital. The Russians escaped while we weren’t watching them, like Russians will.
2. Two kinds of people in this world: Winners, Losers. I lost my power in this world/Because I did not see the light.
3. I never meant to be so bad off/One thing I said that I would never do.
4. She’s got a heart of gold, she’d never let me down/But you’re the one that always turns me on, you keep me coming around.
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F.L.E.P. — The Project that Works for Farmworkers

by Richard Spencer

When the stories broke, they clearly portrayed travesties of justice. The three-article series in the May, 1991 issue of the Philadelphia Inquirer gave startling accounts of the failings of Chester County's criminal system. The rights of many Hispanic farmworkers in its thriving mushroom industry were often grossly violated. There was the story of 16-year-old Jorge Torres who spent nine days in Chester County Prison for a traffic violation. When he couldn't communicate his age in English, the court didn't consider him a minor and failed to place him in a juvenile detention center. Then there was Angel Flores who didn't know what was happening as he spent 14 days in jail after being mistaken for Antonio Cruz Flores. Antonio Cruz Flores was the drunk driver misidentified as Angel Flores by a State Trooper who didn't speak any Spanish. There was Edwin Hernandez Acevado who spent 36 days merely for being a witness in a murder investigation. The district attorney's office detained Acevado on the murder investigation. The district attorney didn't consider him a minor and failed to place him in a juvenile detention center. Then there was Angel Flores who didn't speak any Spanish. There was Edwin Hernandez Acevado who spent 36 days merely for being a witness in a murder investigation. The district attorney didn't consider him a minor and failed to place him in a juvenile detention center.

Villanova Law instructor Jennifer Rosato proposed a project to educate the workers about their rights as criminal defendants in September, 1991. For the past four years, Villanova law students have volunteered their time and language skills to teaching the law in Spanish through the Farmworkers Legal Education Project (FLEP). Operating under the auspices of the Latin American Law Students Association, groups of FLEP volunteers venture out to the makeshift community center called La Comunidad Hispana in Kennett Square. A few nights each semester, they teach various points of law through lectures and skits involving the hapless "Juan Rodriguez,, the fictional character who makes mistakes the audience hopefully learns not to repeat. This fall, the FLEP taught basic criminal procedure in a two part presentation in Spanish. The student volunteers explained and demonstrated the stages of the criminal process from probable cause, to the preliminary arraignment, to trial. A packed audience of farmworkers showed their interest by asking questions and relating their own experiences. One worker, for example, was concerned about how the police searched another worker's apartment after simply announcing themselves before proceeding to enter. The volunteers responded that the search was probably executed pursuant to a warrant, in contrast to the skit they presented earlier in which warrantless searches and arrests were portrayed. The skits proved useful in portraying the law in the context of demonstrative situations. At the same time, they provided an entertaining format to keep the worker's interested. The workers could relate to law students struggling with legal terminology in Spanish, and were amused when Juan was caught with "a white powdery substance,, in his pocket or when the fictional attorneys at his trial cut off witnesses testimony with an emphatic "no mas preguntas!, as in "I have no more questions your honor!,,

To learn about how you can help educate the farmworkers next spring, please e-mail RSPENCER or JKELLEY.

... and how do YOU enjoy the holidays during exams?

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