Annual Ball
a Huge Success

At least it didn’t snow like during last year’s ‘Blizzard Ball.’

By Jennifer Prince

Jennifer Prince

This year’s Barrister’s Ball was held on February 7, 1997 at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The Ball has been held at the museum for the past two years.

Throughout the night, students had free access to the museum’s numerous exhibits, including separate exhibits about butterflies and raptors. There was also an open bar all evening and food stations throughout the museum, including grill and pasta stations and butlered hors d’oeuvres.

Furthermore, there was a huge success. Not only did it not snow this year, but it also appeared to be more people at this year’s ball. Although there were a few long lines at the food stations, this problem was not encountered at the bars.

Finally, there was more room to spread out this year because students had access to both the first and the second floors of the museum.

Marston’s full Orchestra playing all evening. In addition to the orchestra, there was also a DJ on the second floor of the museum.

The Ball was a huge success. Not only did it not snow this year, but it also appeared to be more people at the museum with Ward.

What we’ve wrought this month:

Update on Project Bosnia: page 2
Greg Thomas’ Thoughts: page 4
Find out what’s in store for the spring break:
Horoscopes: page 4.
Docket Editor whines again: page 3.
Wine tasting at Villanova Law: page 5.
Alumni Alley: page 7.
If you don’t read it here, why not write it here?
Project Bosnia

Travels to Eastern Europe

By Stephen Bishop

On December 20, 1996, Professor Henry H. Perritt, Jr., accompanied by Michael Barton, a second year law student and Stuart Ingis, a third year law student, went to Eastern and Central Europe to expand Project Bosnia. Thus, as the work of rebuilding the legal infrastructure continues in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Project Bosnia's goal of placing legal information on the World Wide Web has evolved to include other countries in this rapidly developing region. This new effort, a cooperative called ECUELnet (East and Central European Legal Network), is the continuation of work started by a Constitutional Court connectivity project designed to install Internet servers at the Constitutional Courts of Russia, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The connectivity project was developed by Mr. Larry Lessig of the University of Chicago who worked with the Constitutional Law and Policy Institute to provide the project countries with the hardware necessary to connect to the Internet. The Villanova Center for Information Law and Policy (VCILP) and Project Bosnia are working in conjunction with the Constitutional Law and Policy Institute and the University of Chicago to take this connectivity project into the second phase. The Villanova team returned on January 4th and stated that the trip which put this second phase into action had been a resounding success. Second year law student Mike Barton stated upon his return that “the experience truly heightened my awareness of the importance of access to legal information, something Americans seem to take for granted.”

The second phase of the project, called ECUELnet, focuses on content now that the hardware and connections at Courts are almost complete. ECUELnet aims to facilitate access to legal information through the World Wide Web by standardizing the methods of placing the information on the Internet as well as the ways in which to search the legal documents. This “standardization” of online legal information will allow people throughout Europe and the world to research and obtain legal documents with relative ease. The goal is to ensure access to legal information by both legal professionals and concerned citizen groups.

To start the ECUELnet project, the Project Bosnia team met with Justices and representatives of the Constitutional Courts of Russia, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic during the midyear break. The Villanova group demonstrated the capabilities and experience VCILP and Project Bosnia had to offer in the new ECUELnet cooperative by emphasizing, one, the recent success of placing pentium computers in the hands of the Constitutional Court and Ombudsman of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and two, the imminent connection of these two institutions to the World Wide. The Villanova team returned on January 4th and stated that the trip put this second phase into action had been a resounding success. Second year law student Mike Barton stated upon his return that “the experience truly heightened my awareness of the importance of access to legal information, something Americans seem to take for granted.”

Each of the countries is cooperating in facilitating the implementation of World Wide Web access to legal opinions from their Constitutional Courts. In Russia, the group met with the President of the Constitutional Court who was extremely interested in the ECUELnet project. The Court will begin posting decisions in Russian by March of 1997. The Court asked the Villanova group for assistance in developing a Web page and a method for searching opinions in both Russian and English. Both the Hungarian and Slovakian Courts are already technologically advanced. The Hungarian Court is already working on a Web page and on translating some of its opinions. The Chief Counselor of the Hungarian Court promised to make thirty-five English translations available for the World Wide Web. In the Czech Republic one of the justices expressed a great interest in the creation of a virtual library of European Court of Human Rights decisions. This revelation pleased the Villanova team as they constantly stressed the importance of easy and free access to legal information by the common man as well as legal professionals.

Upon returning to Villanova, the ECUELnet group developed a Web page template for each Court. The template idea was developed to achieve a uniformity throughout the ECUELnet system. Thus, the template will aid the project's goal to develop Web based software to permit electronic case management, conferencing and opinion drafting. This will allow for instantaneous publishing of decisions to the World and to make access to the opinions easier by a variety of search tools on the Web. Each Court will maintain the information specific to that Court on its own server. The templates provide a uniform system allowing users throughout the World to access that information. Presently, the Villanova contingent is investigating search engines for each language and the possibility of cross language searching.

The importance of freedom of information, especially legal information, is most evident to the law students working on the project. That part of the world does not have the same tradition of accessible legal information that we are accustomed to in the United States. In realization of the importance of this project for a global legal community, participants in the project are busy developing and maintaining the relationships with the Courts that Professor Perritt, Sta Ingis and Mike Barton created during their travels.

See page 6 for photographs

Villanova University Art Gallery
invites you to an
Auction of Art
from the
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This Fund-raising auction encompasses a wide range of works by 20th Century artists
Proceeds will help support Gallery Outreach programs
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Reception: Friday, March 14, 5 - 6 p.m.
Auction: Friday, March 14, 6 p.m.
Villanova University Art Gallery
at the Connelly Center
Information: (610) 519-4612

Dan Barry enjoying Barristers' Ball '97

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Dan Barry enjoying Barrister's Ball '97
To the Villanova Law Community,

I thought that for this month's editorial, we should hear what more experienced students of the law have to say about our future profession.

EMPHASIZE LAWYER ROLE AS NEW ATTORNEYS by Ralph Noiler and Wesley J. Smith

Harvard Law graduate, Ansel Chaplin, a corporate lawyer with thirty years of practice under his belt, told us that many of his colleagues are big firm "spin control artists" who put the best face on the "courageous or close-to-courageous behaviors" of their clients. As a consequence, clients view their legal representatives not so much as professionals but "fired guns" creating a "system that [helps] promote a kind of fundamental moral dishonesty."

These are not only encouraging words to read while you are a law student spending these years of your life in rigorous preparation for a license to practice law. But they are words that need to be taken to heart. The legal profession has devolved into a mercantile business where the ethical obligation to "reasonably represent" clients has become the be-all and end all of legal representation, resulting in the surrender of professional independence, sadly commented upon by Mr. Chaplin.

The general public is also aware that something has gone seriously wrong with the legal profession. The ubiquitous lawyer jokes we continually hear are merely one sign that the legal profession has slipped into disrepute among the general public. People sense that the legal system does not serve the common good but has been co-opted by and manipulated for the benefit of the rich and most powerful members of society. As any writer then, that respect for the rule of law has plummeted?

There is a powerful solution to this despair and cynicism: the revitalization of the role of "lawyers" as a check and balance to the activities engaged in by "attorneys."

Many believe that the terms "attorney" and "lawyer" are synonymous. They aren't. The word attorney designates the private role of legal representatives vis-à-vis the client. The word lawyer represents a vitally different duty required of the legal professional: the public role required of the "office of the court" whose duties extend beyond the client to serving the justice system and the broader public interest.

The varying role of attorneys and lawyers are both essential to effective and ethical legal representation. Without the attorney function, no district of loyalty would be owed to the client, and as a public consequence, each legal professional would be tempted to become judge and jury of each case. But, without the lawyer function, legal representation would devolve into an unenlightened, profit-motivated, 

THE VILLANOVA LAW DOCKET

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The Villanova Law Docket is published on the first Friday of every month by the students of Villanova University School of Law, Villanova, PA 19085. Letters and articles are welcome from students, faculty, alumni, and the community. Past advertisements are also accepted. The Villanova Law Docket is distributed in all common rooms, suites and administration.

The Villanova Law Docket Editorial Committee reserves the right to refuse any piece based on size, and requests that all pieces not exceed five double spaced, typed pages. Any questions regarding the policies or any other information regarding the forum section can be answered by contacting an editor of the Docket staff.

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Ralph Noiler is a former advocate, advocate and author of many books in the field of criminal law. His book, "Caring for Criminals," has been translated into several languages. Wesley Smith, M.D. is the author of several books on law and medicine.

All pieces for the forum section of the next Docket must be turned into the Docket Mailbox in Room 34 by March 31, 1997, no later than 5:30 p.m. Each letter must contain the name, address and phone number of the author and must include a typed, or preferably, on disk (WP 5.1). The Docket reserves the right to refuse any piece based on size, and requests that all pieces not exceed five double spaced, typed pages. Any questions regarding the policies or any other information regarding the forum section can be answered by contacting an editor of the Docket staff.
I'll go back up on the steps to park? Wait a minute. I did drive search for it.”

the steps, the confusion sets in. school memory loss?” This occurs most often when one is parked yesterday. Ah hah! I remember I parked over this stolen I don't see it anywhere. I know, my car must have been poor sap looking for his vehicle. am not alone. There is another occurring most often when one is looking for their car at the end of the day. As one walks down the steps, the confusion sets in.

"Where exactly did I park? Wait a minute. I did drive to school today right? OK. I remember I parked over this way. No, that was where I parked yesterday. Ah hah! I am not alone. There is another poor sap looking for his vehicle. I know, my car must have been stolen I don't see it anywhere. I'll go back up on the steps to search for it.”

If this or something similar has happened to you, don't panic. Many a day I have seen people walk out of the Law School befuddled with the riddle where they had parked that day. Eventually, as we all know, we eventually find our cars. However, what is this strange occurrence? Our memory never used to be this bad. Is law school to blame?

Perhaps it is. I recently did an intensive study (which compares to this strange phenomenon. In college, when I was more motivated and had about 150 percent more free time I would work out at Gold's Gym for 2 1/2 to 3 hours a day. My roommate and work out partner was a nut job and pushed me to work out, apparently both my roommate and I held our breath enough to kill those few short term memory brain cells that we had in us.

I propose that based on this study, law school has the same effect on the human brain. After three to five hours of class, notes, and intense verbal participation (which VLS is renowned for), those few short term memory cells that all of us have are gone. Killed perhaps by a lack of oxygen, or by other predator law school brain cells. Nevertheless, they are gone forever, leaving us only to consider filing a wrongful death action against the school on behalf of our dead cells.

Unfortunately, there is no end to this cycle, nor is there an end to this article. All that is left to be said is, “Hey, your Tony Randell!!”
Wines of the World

Villanova Law School - Jewish Law Association sponsors wine tasting seminar

By David F. Kwee

Chances are that at some point in your promising career, you will want to celebrate your success with a good wine. If, like me, you just got engaged, then maybe you want to pick a bottle to celebrate that 'special occasion.' It's not everyday that you get engaged. Picking the right wine, like picking the right partner-for-life is no easy task. But I have found her, and contrary to popular belief, anyone can learn how to pick the right wine.

This is where Adam Lantz and Rishona Beck of the Jewish Law Students Association come in. On Wednesday, February 5, 1997, they did us wine-illiterates a favor. They sponsored a wine seminar, so that people like me can finally learn what a 'Torresella Pinot Gregio' is, and where it comes from, and how it tastes... and how to taste.

The oh so humorous Alton Long, a professional wine taster, lecturer, and humorist showed us in two hours, how wine tasting can be enriching, satisfying, and... dare I say, cancer-preventing. There is more to wine tasting than knowing a few fancy French names, or swishing around a mouthful of that life-giving juice.

The event was a success. Lantz even had to move us to the Cafeteria, because the Reushlein Room could not hold the estimated 60 lawstudents/mob.

At the end of the evening, everyone had picked a few favorites, mine was a delightful French wine called, 'Louis Latour 1994 Maranges Burgogne.' I conferred with D.M. who was sitting next to me, and he agreed that it was a good wine. Although I got a lot out of Long's seminar, he did leave us with a warning. Wine tasting cannot be learned over night, but is a life-long hobby. He suggested that people get together in groups and sample and compare a few wines, to get more acquainted with a certain type of wine, or a wine from a certain region.

The evening ended (ofcourse) with a wine reception.

ALTON LONG
ON WINE

Let's Taste the Wine... and Talk About It

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Member—German Wine Society
Past National President—American Wine Society
Partner—The Wine Forum
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Project Bosnia Travels To Eastern Europe

At the Hungarian court

Meeting with the Justices of the Czech court

Moscow
Bigger Preparation for Smaller Firms

By Franco Mazzei, Esquire (Class of 1996) and Barbara O’Connell, Esquire (Class of 1986)

“BIGGER” PREPARATION FOR SMALLER FIRMS

The practice or art of interviewing for the small to mid-size law firm is a practice which can be enhanced over time and ultimately mastered through practice. The small to mid-size law firm, usually consisting of five to twenty-five attorneys specializing in litigation, presents the prospective employee with the opportunity to gain practical work experience through assignments dealing with substantive law.

The most important goal of an interviewer from a small to mid-size firm is to find suitable perspective employees to fill job positions the firm has to offer. Unlike the larger firms, the smaller to mid-size firm cannot hire a law student and ultimately hope to have the individual assimilate into one of many specialized departments. Instead, the small to mid-size firm must keep a keen eye for students who it feels demonstrates skill and an interest in the firm’s field of specialty.

The on campus interviewer may break down the hiring process into a two step structure. First, the interviewer will look to the contents or “four corners” of the law students resume, taking note of academic achievement, extra curricular activities, and scholastic endeavors which appear on the resume. When dealing with a firm that maintains a litigation practice, activities such as Moot Court, public speaking, prior careers dealing with people, and strong writing ability may ultimately determine whether the law student receives a first round interview.

The second and more important phase of the hiring process consists of the interview itself. During the interview session, the discussion may range anywhere from scholastic endeavors to the unexpected. Keeping in mind that litigation ultimately involves interaction with other individuals and advocacy, the interviewer will utilize this discussion session as a chance to evaluate the law student’s skills of conversation and persuasions. Ultimately, the discussion will turn back to the matter at hand, the possible employment of the law student.

At this point, the interviewer may ask the law student if she/he has any questions for the interviewer. The interviewer will be looking for more open, thoughtful questions which distinguish the law student from the others. Such questions are:

“How do you feel about the legal profession in light of recent media portrayals?” or “How would you advise a young attorney to deal with the profession in today’s society?”

Most importantly, the law student must realize that this is an invitation to not only impress the interviewer, but leave a lasting impression which may be the difference between a second interview or a polite letter of rejection.

The most advantageous step the interviewing law student may take, will be to take the initiative to prepare for the interview. By this, the law student will find that researching the background and specialization of the small to mid-size law firm will assure the interviewer that neither party is wasting their time. As stated earlier, the small to mid-size law firm is looking for law students for eventual permanent jobs. Only with preparation may the law student find out the specialization of the small to mid-size law firm, to enable the student to emphasize an interest and demonstrate skill in that particular area.

By taking this extra step, the law student can take advantage of the focus which the interviewer will bring to the interview, making it more difficult for the interviewer to forget them.

Franco Mazzei, Esquire
VILLANOVA SCHOOL OF LAW, CLASS OF 1996

Barbara A. O’Connell, Esquire
VILLANOVA SCHOOL OF LAW, CLASS OF 1986

Lexis*Nexis you can research hundreds of newspaper archives to discover each and every time the firm with whom you will be interviewing has been mentioned in print over the last ten years. In addition, you can find up-to-the-minute articles on developments and current issues relating to any practice area including insurance defense litigation, health care, tax, personal injury, real estate, sports law, environmental law, etc.

To learn how to use Lexis*Nexis to prepare for an interview, check with the Career Services Center for regularly scheduled workshops or e-mail one of your student Lexis representatives for an individualized training session.

Any alumni wishing to contribute to The Docket should contact Maryann O’Donnell at Villanova University School of Law.
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