The Docket, Issue 1, October 2000

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Let's Get Political: VLS Students Involved

By JIM DELLAFIORA

The Villanova Law School Community celebrated the annual Red Mass last Friday evening at the Church of St. Thomas of Villanova. The Red Mass, which traces its origins to the Middle Ages, invokes the divine blessing upon the school of law and the legal profession. Preisdent and homilist Reverend Thomas Betz delivered an inspirational message to the attendees of the mass. Betz spoke of his own upbringing in a lower middle class family and his desire to become an attorney. In reflecting on his motivations for attending law school, Betz found that he was driven more out of a desire for respect rather than wealth. He relayed to the

Red Mass attendees that his desire to be perceived as important and to have people look up to him were the primary factors propelling him toward the legal profession. Betz used this story as a springboard to endorse the notion of humility, a quality he has observed to be lacking in the world and specifically in the legal community.

Betz cited the pervasive desire within the legal community to climb to the top, often at the expense of others, and stated that we as aspiring attorneys, practicing attorneys, professors of law, and judges, need to keep that urge in check by embracing the notion of humility.

If anyone is qualified to speak on the topic of humility, it is Reverend Thomas Betz. Betz currently serves as the Director of the Office for Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. After receiving his legal degree from the University of Pittsburgh, Betz’s desire to positively affect the lives of others in a more direct manner drew him to religious endeavors.

Rather humorously, Betz points out that since his decision to enter the religious realm after receiving his legal degree many have questioned his choice to “give it all away” to become a priest. To this, Betz points to the scriptures for the evening, read by Professor Sirico and Dobkin, and by Betz himself, as illustrating the lessons that serve as a model for his own life.

Betz used this request to reinforce that the legal community not only to all of those present at the supper, but especially to the legal community bear in mind the importance of striving to be humble. He stated that, “You may have convinced yourself that you have achieved the success you are enjoying today through your own hard work and your tenacious effort.”

In closing he reminded the many people who helped us to achieve the status we enjoy today. For each of us this list includes friends, family, teachers, professors, and even adversaries. Second, Betz asked that “When your legal skills take you to a position where you are working with the rich and powerful, do not abandon your integrity or lose sight of the fact that these individuals are only human.”

Combined with this charge, and third on his list of tasks, Betz urged that the legal community not forget the poor, and that attorneys “never be afraid to stand next to someone accused of a crime or guilty of a crime.” Betz used this request to reinforce the notion that we are all just people, whether rich or poor, educated or ignorant, self-serving or altruistic.

Finally, Betz charged the legal community to maintain both a respect and a place for manual labor in life. He stressed that thinking can only get you so far, and that desert is the key to achievement.

Reverend Betz’s message wasn’t the only noteworthy happening at the Red Mass on Friday night. The Villanova University Pastoral Musicians, alongside alumni and students from the school of law, supplied home-brewed Villanova sounds for all to enjoy.

Soloist Kristi Jastberg VLS ’02 utilized her beautiful voice and tremendous talent to add a new layer to the event.

A Group of 3Ls Celebrate Red Mass, one of the year’s highlights.

Let’s Get Political: VLS Students Involved

By JIM DELLAFIORA

As the election cycle for the year 2000 comes to a close, Villanova Law’s political clubs have been in the thick of the campaign action. At the same time, they have been looking ahead to some races that promise to keep Villanova grade in the political spotlight.

Ryan Costello, co-chair of the Republican Law Society, pointed to two debate parties his group co-sponsored with the Democratic Law Society in the law school’s student lounge as activities the Villanova Republicans have been involved in this year. Costello said he and a few other Villanova students also worked at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia last summer.

Costello himself was involved on the floor of the convention, overseeing and chaperoning the delegations from Iowa and Pennsylvania.

“That was fun because I got to be right where all the big names were speaking,” Costello said. “Other people who worked at the convention were involved in setting up the convention hall or in security, or worked at hotels to welcome delegates.”

Among other election activities for the Republican Law Society during this election cycle have been volunteer efforts for the Bush campaign phone bank in West Chester and hosting GOP Congressman Kurt Weldon at the law school at the end of October.

Matt Bradford, co-chair of the Democratic Law Society, said his group got involved in distributing campaign literature for Democratic Congressman Joe Hoefel. Members also worked as contributing volunteer workers for local races, including the campaign of Lynne Yockey, a former U.S. House candidate who is currently running for the State Senate.

Both Bradford and Costello agreed Pennsylvania is still very much a battleground for a number of races this year. In the presidential race, this looks like every vote could count.

“If you’re registered in Pennsylvania you really should go out and vote,” Costello said. Bradford emphasized the importance of the state to the Democrat’s hopes of holding on.

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EDITORIAL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
11:30 AM TO 5:00 PM
ST. MARY'S HALL - GYM

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

BY JEN KRAMER ’01

Now onto slightly more serious stuff. I pay for student membership in the ABA and Philadelphia Bar Associations. I get a mily membership fee (plus a lot of perks. Well, guess what? We all pay for membership in our school’s SBA, too. And we don’t get a card. We sometimes forget, or maybe some don’t even know. The SBA is an association comprised entirely of us and funded entirely by our money. Half of our student fee is a mandatory membership fee in the SBA. So we’re all “in” or “out” in the SBA, remember that. The TG food and beer is not free, we paid for it. So recently, in the interests of full disclosure and the pursuit of compelling story, I went to the SBA Board to let us print the SBA’s operating budget. No big deal, right? After all, it’s our association and our money. And, the SBA is the biggest student organization at the law school. If every other student group has to itemize and justify every line item in its budget, why then should the SBA be any different? Well, damn it all, half of all that doesn’t break down to little ‘ol me and this request on behalf of The Docket. A series of heated e-mails was exchanged and words were flying last week at the SBA meeting when four of us from the Docket staff explained why we were ticked that they chose to obstruct the substance of our request — releasing the budget — but then stucked us by not releasing the figures to us first. (They voted to honor our request by printing in the Gazette). We smoothed things out pretty well, though. We did discover that the SBA has some rather curious operating practices, the most glaring being the power to change meetings and/or vote to the public (you students) with a 2/3 vote and then not report on what went on during the closed session. So the possibility for private (secret?) discussions and votes that we will never even hear about is very real. I get a little nervous when people spend my money in private. Doesn’t sound too kosher to me. But, as they pointed out, it’s not all their fault. They are bound by a Constitution and "handed down" procedures that they concede may need some revamping. I hope this one gets attention fast.

Now for the accolades. Peter Crawford is a capable SBA President who so far has proven very willing to listen to and respond to student concerns. This year’s SBA Board seems to be on the ball as well. Orientation this year was the best of the last three years (much credit to Nancy Whalen for this as well). Last weekend, they sent out a nice (and much needed) e-mail warning students not to drink and drive during Spring Break. The board is really doing a good job of keeping us all informed.

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Visit us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at http://store.law.com or call 800-628-1160
the country who is seriously con­
sidering going into a law school instead. I have other
friends that have accepted or are looking for law firm jobs
more than I can handle and have
for themselves. I do not know
whether their parents get out of
bed each Monday morning hap­
ply to get up at 6:30 AM, but the next week before them, as they must
believe their children soon will, but I am guessing probably not.
Their idea of law school is to
the law (unless of course you do have a Faustian compact, then see
ning hell and torture for eternity).
There is no binding con­
tract that says you must practice law if you went to law school.
Those that fear deviating from the law school norm may feel more
comfortable practicing law outside of the traditional sense.
The thing that should be noted is where a job law degree is invaluable although not
required, such as being an agent—spying for the CIA out­
lushing, acting as a consultant,
working for Westlaw or Lexis, and foundation work, to name
just a few.
For those of you who are
will­
ing to consider a job outside the
field of law, I have 5 things
you can tell yourself to help
rationalize why you went to law school.
First, education is never a waste of money especially if you didn't
put your degree to use the day
after you graduate doesn't mean
don't you will never. Fourth, you
will be able to save a bundle in
legal advice. Fifth, and certainly
least you will never have to
talk about what would have
happened if you went to law
school.
Still Stuck in the Box
You went to law school to make
money. However, you are not
in the top twenty-five per­
cent of the class (actually you are not even in the top fifty per­
cent) which is more or less due
to the grade curve that is in
your part. Your best job offer thus far has been for $50,000.
Although you are $50,000 per
well over the national average, after making payments on your
law school loans and taxes each
year, $50,000 is actually about
$25,000. If you don't begin
thinking outside the box, you
may find yourself making very
little money for a long time.
Second, these individuals are
drawn to their profession.
They probably view
lawyers as their workmates. A
friend who works for Solomon
Smith Barney has made a point
of letting me know that lawyers
are only very pressured
very low on the high-income
totem pole and not the best
investors. The reason is lawyers and school oriented individ­
uals do not tend to be risk	ackers.
Keeping in that mind, although
venturing outside the box is a
risk, it's a risk worth taking.

Outside the Box
Kate liked purses. She
decided to make a few as a
people. Women were willing to
buy them. Now Kate massifies
on her purses and makes it
putting together
to good use. To go to one
throughout the country (the
ography on Kate was a waste of time,
but I managed to put the infer­
tion I gained to use — 
imag­
in I will be able to do with all
this law nonsense.

What Can You Be?
Personally I have no idea
what I want to be when I go
"grow up." I am working on my
thing that is closer to
thing that I want to be
that I graduated high school
(please keep in mind this fact
may parents, they are already
under enough stress). The
important thing is not to limit
yourself. Depending on your
religious or philosophical
beliefs, you only have one life
to live the biggest life you can.
Hopefully, when you are
old and gray, you will spend
the days years somewhere
else

Student Groups Host Debate Parties
Blow-by-Blow Debate Coverage
By Carmen "Baby" Bell
Quip, quip, bicker, bicker.
The sound of a finger nail
scraping against a fingernail
point at someone. These are the
sounds that could be heard
coming from the television in the
VLS on the final debate.

First Round.
Bush bussed out with the
Democrat and Republican Law Society
came fully equipped with pizza,
pretzels, chips, soda, and beer
(those really bad and shameful
parts of the debate) for a
long night of what seemed
like a never ending party.

Second Round.
The round drilled out discussion
on oil supply prices. "Clear and
better" incentives for domestic
resources was what Gore pro­
posed. In response to the
bait, traditional Texas fashion, Bush
stated that the government need­
ed to "explore at home." Bush
proposed more pipelines, the uti­
ization of more coal resources in
America and less dependence
in foreign oil.

Third Round. Next on the
agenda was the very controver­sial 416 Proposal, the abortion
case, insinuating that
the Supreme Court Justices, since
they must, could
write Roe v. Wade.

Joe Finneran, 3L
dates were quick to put on
their kid gloves. Bush says that there
needs to be a common ground
on parental consent and banning
partial-birth abortion. Gore, on the other hand, fully supports
the feminist view by expressing
his belief that a woman has the
right to choose.
Gore insisted that his administration
would trust women to choose their
own destiny and life.

"I'll put competent judges on
the Bench," Bush said (I know we
are all relieved to know they
will be qualified). In response,
Gore brought up the achingly
over-publicized Roe v. Wade
case, adding "I think the critical differences
between the candidates and that
which speaks more strongly
effect of Bush is his message of
personality responsibility," said 2L,
Erin Ginsburg, a staunch, Bush
Continued on page 6
Get Political
Continued from page 3
Democratic's hopes of holding on to
the White House. "Pennsylvania is important this year," he said. The Gore cam­
paign is thinking they can't win without taking Pennsylvania." Bradford also pointed to the U.S. Senate race in Pennsylvania, where incumbent GOP Sen. Rick Santorum has consistently out polled his chal­lenger, Democrat, U.S. Sen. Ron K. S.U.
K. This race could yield an election night surprise.
"Santorum is already above fifty percent, and a lot of people see him as too polariz­ing," Bradford said. "Santorum really has a reputation for being too
conservative for the state. I wouldn't be surprised to see
that race turn out to be pretty close at the end." Cos­
tello thought Santorum was pretty safe in his re-election bid. "The way Klin­
ken can win is if Gore wins big in
Pennsylvania and a lot of people
vote straight ticket." A nearby U.S. House of Representatives race featuring
a high profile Villanova Law
graduate is a contest that could have national implications.
Pat Casey, class of '92 and the son of the late Gov. Robert
Casey, is challenging Republican incumbent Don
Sherwood, a rematch of the
closest House race of 1998. In
Philadelphia, incumbent Nancy
Casey and Sherwood, a car
dealership owner, went down to
the wire to fill the vacant
Congressional seat in
Pennsylvania's 10th District in
the Scranton area. After a long
night of counting election
returns, Casey lost the seat to
Sherwood by a mere 515 votes.
In fact, both Sherwood and Casey each
came within a few votes of the
vote, the remaining 2% are
divided among third party can­
didates and write-ins.
Democratic leaders did not
wait long to encourage Casey
to take another shot at the seat.
"If the Democrats take back the
private schools creating a "find­ing
climate around the country."
Bush in his own defense (or
may not to look like a me­anie) argued that Gore would not push
forward with the higher standards.

Final Round. "Rendell will have millions of
dollars to spend on the race," Bradford said. "That's going to be a
problem. Rendell has wasted
the money, but the Casey name
is magic in Pennsylvania."
SPECIAL GUEST: VLS JOB GURU

Dear Job Guru,

I'm a third year law student, middle of my class, with strong personality and good interview skills. I have the journal so the big firms aren't bringing. I didn't get any responses from the resume drop. I'm from the area, so I do networking, but not sure. What do you suggest is my best plan of action before graduation?

Signed,
"Sleepless in Sugartown"

Dear Shepless:

For those of us who rely, in part, on the sheer force of our personalities to succeed, it's a shame that instead of submitting resumes, law students can't submit videos of themselves (like MTV's "Real World") on Wall Street. A video would show what a terrific and enthusiastic person you are and what an energetic colleague you would be - traits that a resume or transcript often don't do justice.

Now, don't get going any ideas about appearing yourself wearing a lounging robe and singing a song about why you want to work for Dewey, Cheatham & Howe. But, find out other ways to potentual employers your great personality without going through the "resume first, interview later, gatekeeping process."

How do you get around the gatekeepers? Make every effort to "see and be seen," as they say, and strike up conversations with new people. Ask your contacts to introduce you to attorneys who they know. Volunteer. For example, did you know that student groups where you can talk face to face with attorneys in your desired field. Attend alumni events, networking events. Coordinate panel discussions. Join your neighborhood association, a basketball team, or a book group.

Know the great that 10 minute conversation you have with an attorney at a Dean's Roundtable, Alumini function, or Bar Association event can be the equivalent of a great job interview if you take it to the next level and stay in touch with that attorney.

Of course, Job Guru does not advocate "stalking" as a job search strategy. But, persistence and follow-up are traits that employers like in new lawyers - and traits that can turn that your "cocktail party partner" into real job leads. Drop your new acquaintance a quick e-mail expressing how much you enjoyed your discussion. When you see an article in the press about your new acquaintance would be interest ed, copy it, handwrite a short "Hello, this made me think of our discussion" note, and drop it in the mail. Ask your contact for advice on a career topic of mutual interest. If you're going to be in the office of your new contact, call the day before and let them know. May you drop in for a "quick hello."

"Rainmakers" generate new client leads this way - and you can generate new job leads by using "rainmaker" methods.

Your career network may not blossom overnight, but with dedication and persistence your efforts will ultimately bear fruit.

Sincerely,

Dear Job Guru:

In your last writing I can't see myself writing briefs or memos for even a year or two. I've been told to just practice for a few years and don't think I'd make it. I'm much more interested in a business career. Am I wasting my time here or what?

Signed,
"Start Up Sam"

Dear Start Up:

First, let me say that I'm sure your lack of passion for "TRAC" and "CRAC" must be in your excellent Legal Writing Department. But, persistence and follow-up are traits that employers like in new lawyers - and traits that can turn that your "cocktail party partner" into real job leads. Drop your new acquaintance a quick e-mail expressing how much you enjoyed your discussion. When you see an article in the press about your new acquaintance would be interested, copy it, handwrite a short "Hello, this made me think of our discussion" note, and drop it in the mail. Ask your contact for advice on a career topic of mutual interest. If you're going to be in the office of your new contact, call the day before and let them know. May you drop in for a "quick hello."

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Sincerely,

Happy Halloween from The VLS Docket!
DeLiberty cont. from pg 3

The Cave, the Three-Toed Sloth, and Family

By: Cathleen A. Sabatino

On October 13th and 14th some of the most influential people in entertainment and sports convened in Orlando, Florida for this year's American Bar Association (ABA) Forum on the Entertainment and Sports Industries. This event is held annually and is designed to create a forum for the discussion of current issues affecting the entertainment and sports industries.

The event began on Friday with registration and a panel of five attorneys currently practicing in the areas of music, television, entertainment, and sports. This panel was designed specifically to answer the questions of the newer and more seasoned lawyers in attendance. Topics included "establishing a respectable Sports and Entertainment Law Society" in your area, and how to create a city known for this specialized practice area, "how to get an informational interview with your dream employer."

The day continued with sessions in music, sports, and motion picture and television productions. During the morning sessions there were a wide range of topics discussed. The music sessions discussed Napster litigation and piracy issues. The state of sports law and the affiliation presence of women in sports law were discussed in the sports sessions.

During the lunch hour the intended speaker was Janmy Lovine, Co-Chairman of Interscope Geffen A&M and co-founder of Interscope Records, however Mr. Lovine was unexpectedly called to Europe. So Justice and Michael Kaplan, Becker, Behm & Goldberg, Co-Chairman of Interscope Records, stepped in as replacements. Mr. Kaplan commented on the fact that this forum was attended by a larger number of law students than in any of the past. For this reason, Ms. Evans and Mr. Katz decided to discuss their personal experiences in their climb to success. Ms. Katz relayed the story of how her first entertainment client came to be, and Mr. Evans discussed the career path that led him to BMG.

After the lunch hour there were more sessions with discussion of such topics as live performance and the globalization of the music business and regulations of sports and sports on the Internet. Additionally, professional programming and licensing issues on the Internet and structuring the production and theatrical motion pictures were discussed.

This long day was followed by a reception and a midnight breakfast at which all speakers and participants were able to get to know each other. While the established lawyers enjoyed conversing with colleagues, these events seemed to be the most beneficial to the law students in attendance. They were given the opportunity to network and discuss issues with people they would more than likely never get to meet otherwise. It also gave students the chance to meet the month during December. (author's note: He's dreaming if he thinks he'll get grades before February.)

Q: For what two reasons are you likely to skip class? (author's note: To spice it up, I made this one multiple choice.)

(a) sleep
(b) to do memo/brief/paper/work for
(c) to do memo/brief/paper/work for another class
(d) night school — it's too dangerous to walk from the office to the car and back (author's note: He's dreaming if he thinks he'll ever get grades before February.)

Q: Do you believe in aliens? (Try. Yes. And, only those who believe should answer)

MAC: I'm with him.

The truth is out there.

Have a picture of you with a famous person?

Do you look like a celebrity?

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The Cave, the Three-Toed Sloth, and Family

by Benachile

"You don't look that much alike, pal," the voices are the same. Brothers John (2L) and Jeff Johnson (1L), both students here at VLS, get that slot. Personally, I think they have the same eyes and smile, but that's just my opinion - I could be wrong about anything. So say Mike Carter, his cousin, 3L, has the same voice, but I see the resemblance in the face. Those of you who know these guys know they are smart, and friendly. But did you know that studying law at Villanova is actually a tradition in this family? John and Jeff's father, Sr., also attended Villanova Law. (Other notable students gracing the halls at this time were professore Dobbsy and Taggert.) I was fortunate to manage some time with John, Jeff, and Mike to have a little about their family's VLS tradition, and to pick their brains about law school.

Q: Can you tell me about Mr. Johnson's VLS experience?

MAC: A little bit of a class quit part. I thought it was going to be tough, but in the end it was even a bit of a class. The same time, and smile, and that's how they call it the "Wild" Onion. Shouldn't these kids be outlining or something? Next month we'll list all those who are engaged or recently married.

THIS JUST IN

A troubling report came in recently from the Docket's 3L-1L relations bureau. We have a terribble shortage of "sparedomship" classes, which normally run every quarter or so. The first one of the new academic year seemed to be a fluke, and the next one, scheduled for tomorrow, seems to be a fluke. The Docket is looking into it. And we're much more lenient with our writing requirements. We need a photographer too. A camera digital — cool is provided. Also, there's an urgent need for an editor. Reports say that someone really needs to keep an eye on those rambonians. (Just kidding.) Till next time.

Corrections

*The SBA Vice-President is Willis Watson.

* The SBA Secretary is Amy Gauden.

* The SBA Budget totals near $60,000 for the year, not $50,000.

* The SBA Board is not a bunch of Commie Pinkos.

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