The Life and Times of a Law Review Note Writer

By Shelby Alberts, 2L
Staff Writer

June 23, 2009

Europe. Nice, French Riviera. I am almost halfway into the best summer of my life: traveling through Asia and Europe, throwing in a law school summer session here and there. I walk home from class to my small, shared apartment overlooking the Mediterranean and sit down for my daily electronic exchange with the States. Upon opening my TJSL email account, I see it. Subject line: Law Review Invitation. I am so excited that I can barely skim the email. “Must write a scholarly article of publishable quality… enormous amount of time, effort and dedication…” Whatever. I’m in!

August 13, 2009

My first day back in San Diego after a long summer. I am a little behind all of the other Law Review newbies, so I watch the orientation video (four hours!) to be briefed on the process. I come to realize that I can barely write a scholarly article of publishable quality… enormous amount of time, effort and dedication…” Whatever. I’m in!

August 23, 2009

I have a topic. I am happy. Oh, wait. My advisor tells me this topic is unworkable. It’s a nice way of saying that my argument is just plain wrong. Back to square one.

August 28, 2009

Preemption. A word a Note Writer does not want to hear. Through hours of reading various law review articles from various law schools I find THE EXACT SAME NOTE I am writing. Only it’s written by someone else. Weekend two, check.

September 3, 2009

After talking to my advisor, and maybe looking for a little pity, I come up with some of these novel topics...

Continued on page 2, WRITER

Working for a Better Tomorrow: A Community Committee Progress Report
Jennifer Goldman, 1L
Staff Writer

The Community Committee of Thomas Jefferson School of Law has made several significant advancements since its inception last August.

On November 9, the Community Committee held their first annual Networking Event here at Thomas Jefferson. Students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to meet local professionals and non-profit organizations in the legal community. Among the attendees, guest speakers included Professor Herrera, Professor Dyson and Professor Slattery.

One of the Community Committee’s goals is to create a greater network between Thomas Jefferson students and the surrounding legal community by facilitating a coalition with non-profit organizations and legal aid clinics. The Community Committee has begun to foster opportunities for Thomas Jefferson students by developing relationships with surrounding legal clinics, such as the Veteran’s Legal Assistance, in which students provide actual legal representation to clients of the Veteran’s Village of San Diego. This opportunity will enable students to become more involved in their community by giving back, and thus helps to bridge the gap between students and the community.

Also, the Community Committee is conducting community surveys. The purpose of the surveys is to assess where Thomas Jefferson’s interaction with the community is
Somehow, the Editorial Staff of the TJSL Law Review has become a body of people that I desperately want to please. Particularly, I need to please my primary editor, who is someone who has been assigned to personally edit my work. Today, I receive a technical violation for page numbers. Even though I know I am far from the only one receiving one of these emails, I am embarrassed and ashamed. I pray the Editor-in-Chief does not find out.

September 14, 2009

I turn in my first real submission. I have found and referred to 35 sources at this point (not including the first two topics I spent hours researching). My carnal knowledge of Westlaw is excessively intense for a mere 2L.

September 22, 2009

My first feedback from my primary editor! Not good. I have not even made clear what I am arguing. Another shame spiral.

October 1, 2009

My apartment and my truck are covered in Westlaw documents. I am still learning how to read the Bluebook. I feel like Nino (Scalia) and I are on a first name basis. I can quote jury instructions verbatim from three different states. How is my argument coming along? Who knows.

October 14, 2009

I receive a test message from my primary editor: “Great work on your submission!” I wouldn’t be this happy if Chuck Bass himself had texted me. Things are looking up in “Law Review Land”.

October 29, 2009

I interviewed for a job today that I really want. He asked if I had ever done any sort of writing on criminal defense. Actually, yes, yes I have!!! I hope my answer didn’t come out as much enthusiasm as it did in my head. This experience is starting to pay off.

November 3, 2009

As I was stressing out about a submission on Monday of this week, my Law Review study buddy tells me that I am misapportioning, and our next submission is actually due next Monday. In fear of yet another dreaded technical violation, I have to check for myself. I don’t have my staff manual with me, so I have to find the schedule online. In the process of tracking down the staff manual on the Law Review website, I come across the fall 2009 Masthead. There it is. Staff Associates. Shelby Nicole Alberts. I am an officially documented staff member! I even “Googled” myself. Not that it was the first time I had done that, but the first time Facebook wasn’t my only claim to fame. This feels awesome!

November 9, 2009

Three weeks from the final submission of my note. Shockingly, I am stressing less than I expected. As of today, I have logged 74 hours for Law Review during the fall semester. Now it’s just edit, edit, edit. In hindsight, the pain isn’t bad compared to the sense of accomplishment. So, keep that in mind when you or a colleague is in the middle of the note writing process. The insanity is only temporary. On that note, I apologize in advance for my behavior for the following two weeks and six days. But, I’ll make it up to you on December 1 at Kelly’s.

Speed Networking Event – Friday 13th was Actually Lucky This Year

By Lydia Rose, 3L

Family Law Society, President

During my first year as an undergraduate student, a professor told me that it is not what you know that matters but who you know. That comment left me dismayed, because I found it difficult to believe that years of higher education would be of subservient importance to a mystical phenomenon called “networking.” As the years progressed, I saw my colleagues become well versed in the networking process, and I, too, wanted to learn to step outside my comfort zone and become a better networker. When I would attend networking events, however, I found myself merely standing with a group of friends that I already knew. I was unsure of myself and of how to approach an attorney so as to start a normal conversation. Many of these networking events gave off an air of formality and I did not feel as comfortable just being myself as I would be striking up a conversation with a classmate over a cup of coffee.

So, in March 2009, I envisioned a networking event that would offer a fun and relaxed setting in which students could network with legal professionals. Inspired by speed-dating programs, I had the idea of a Speed Networking event.

And my idea finally became a reality on November 13, 2009. The Speed Networking event was hosted by The Family Law Society and co-sponsored by Phi Alpha Delta, the Criminal Law Society, La Raza, PILF, and Career Services. With over 70 students, attorneys, and judges in attendance, Speed Networking proved to be a great success! For this one evening, the veil of formality was lifted and the students present had an opportunity to be themselves and network with a wide number of legal professionals in a short amount of time. Many students left with business cards and some now have job prospects lined up. If it is not about what you know but who you know, the students who attended Speed Networking on November 13 are surely ahead of the game.

I would like to give a special thanks to Randy Grossman for his efforts in obtaining some of the outstanding legal professionals that attended, including Judge Rodrick Shelton. I would also like to thank Angela Bayne and Kathryn Markey for all their help in organizing the event. I am grateful to the dynamic student volunteers who helped make the event a success, including Andrea Rodriguez, Shelby Alberts, Jeremy Evans, Elizabeth Ashton, Justin Duncan, Erika Aspericueta, Will Sung, Erika Gonzalez, Jon Cooper, and Brett Goda. Thank you all, and I look forward to seeing you at the next Speed Networking event.

WORKING, from page 1

strong and where improvement is necessary. The survey team is in the process of developing multiple surveys emphasizing student community integration.

Finally, the Community Committee’s homeless project focuses on providing information and assistance to those who want to re-establish themselves in society. The homeless project began working with local groups that already provide services to the homeless community and contribute to their future improvement.

The Community Committee’s goals this year have set a high standard, but the continued dedication and participation of the students and faculty are sure to make a valuable difference. We look forward to your contributions.
Gripe: Get What You Paid For

By Jeff Hutchins, 2L
Staff Writer

The Externship Office, run by Angie Valdiexena and Judybeth Tropp, provides students with countless opportunities to gain practical real world experience. After speaking to Angie, she reported that roughly 100 students a semester partake in externships for credit. Adding together the summer and both semesters, this is less than half the student population. Getting involved. We not only pay a hefty fee for all of these services, but our professional development requires we get out and test those newly endowed skills learned in the classroom. By taking on externships, attending panels, and putting to use every opportunity provided during law school, TJSL’s reputation will flourish. Every graduate will succeed and spread the word about how lucky we are to be alumni.

In the words of Frank Mead, our wonderful Assistant Dean for Career Services, TJSL is “Harvard on the Highway.” I challenge every student to step up and utilize the short time spent in law school. Next time a student complains about some part of the school, don’t join the gripe fest, instead respond with “Yeah, our school, like most places, has its issues but we are sure lucky to have such a great externship, career services, student services, and numerous other opportunities that make up for it.”

What’s Eating You: Holiday Eating and Habits

By “Dr.” Jonathan Cooper, 2L
Staff Editor

Eating habits evolve with the existing and daily added pressures put on us as students. This translates into more time for studies and less and less time for activities such as eating. Worse, when the clock is ticking too fast, a lot of students opt to skip breakfast once and for all. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, because, just like it says, it “breaks” our “fast,” which takes place during the time we’re asleep. Skipping breakfast makes you groggy and shortens your attention span. As a dietician, Scott Fisher advises that “you should really go no longer than four or five hours without eating something. If you go for too long a period of time without eating, your blood sugar level drops. When your blood sugar level drops, your body essentially sends you signals that it wants a very quick source of energy, in which we consume the typical sugary foods, concentrated calories, hence fatty foods.” Bad calories have become the primary energy source for the increasingly demanding student lifestyle. Boxes of pizza litter study halls, bags of potato chips and soda are a staple during all-nighters, and the vending machine is every crammer’s best friend.

As the holidays are here and the New Year right around the corner, this information comes at a pivotal point. Below you will find average statistics on traditional holiday dishes. Although this information may not change how we eat today, maybe it can act as a catalyst for future change.

Accordingly, the average American will consume more than 4,500 calories, consisting primarily of 229 grams of fat, on Thanksgiving Day alone (Caloric Control Council). If you are not careful, you can gain up to 3 pounds from Thanksgiving dinner alone. Likewise, between Thanksgiving and the New Year the average person gains between 7-10 pounds (National Institute Health). Here is a list of common holiday eating items:

Main Dishes
Prime Rib (8oz) : 854 cal.
Roasted Turkey (6oz) : 350 cal.

Pies by the Slice
Apple Pie : 420 cal.
Pecan Pie : 520 cal.

Stuffed Turkey (8oz) : 872 cal.
Green Bean Casserole (1 cup) : 240 cal.
Mashed Potatoes (1 cup) : 185 cal.

Gravy (1/2) : 250 cal.
Stuffing (1 cup) : 350 cal.
Cranberry Sauce (1/2 cup) : 170 cal.

Ham (8oz) : 570 cal.
Candied Sweet Potatoes (1 cup) : 400 cal.
End Crust : 100 cal.
Pumpkin Pie : 320 cal.

Beverages (8oz)

Hot Buttered Rum : 292 cal.
Irish coffee : 205 cal.
Egg Nog : 343 cal.
Irish coffee : 205 cal.

Whipping Crème : 180 cal.
End Crust : 100 cal.
3.5 oz peanut brittle : 485 cal.

White Russian : 386 cal.

Hot Cocoa w/ whip : 360 cal.

Milk : 234 cal.

Pineapple : 80 cal.

Grapefruit : 50 cal.

Grapefruit : 50 cal.

Lemon : 40 cal.

Lemon : 40 cal.

Sugar : 14 cal.

Sugar : 14 cal.

Gravy (1/2) : 250 cal.

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Faculty Spotlight

Professor Leah Christensen

By Jenni Leys, 2L
Creative Director

Professor Leah Christensen graduated with honors from college with a degree in Chinese. She then attended the University of Iowa for most of her life, finally moving to Chicago, Minneapolis, Ann Arbor. I went to law school at the University of Iowa. Iowa...sort of a lack of connections to the traditional Socratic Method. JL: I know that you got a major in Chinese. How...Chinese...law school? PC: Yes, well there's an interesting story. And it's funny because my brother majored in Japanese. We're two Wisconsin homegrown kids, and he majors in Japanese. But he does business in China, he builds hotels there. And I majored in Chinese and went to law school. My plan was to do human rights work with the UN. Little did I know at the time it's really really hard to get a job with the UN. Particularly when you're at the University of Iowa. Iowa...sort of a lack of connections to Washington DC. That was the plan, and I had an opportunity to go teach in China afterwards, but I'm very impatient. And I was like, no I need to go right away to law school. And so I did. And I fell in love with litigation. I did a clerkship after that, and began to practice law...and sort of lost my Chinese. And then it came full circle because one of the reasons I chose Thomas Jefferson is because of their Chinese program and getting to teach in the Chinese program brings my life full circle. And it's awesome. JL: Better question...Why teaching law school? PC: Well, I practiced for ten years. I did litigation, medical malpractice, and switched to an in-house counsel job as Asstant Council for the Madison Metropolitan School District. I found that I couldn't practice in high stakes litigation and raise children in the way that I wanted to raise children.

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Professor Steve Semeraro

By Amanda Litt, 2L
Staff Writer

Professor Semeraro is a popular man among the Thomas Jefferson School of Law students and faculty. Currently, he is a professor of property and intellectual property law, as well as one of the professors teaching advanced criminal law. Students who went abroad to Nice, France this summer, where he taught Comparative Antitrust law, have only great things to say about Professor Semeraro. They also talk about what an interesting man he is.

I had previously never met Professor Semeraro, or had the opportunity to be in one of his classes, but during my interview I discovered some of the intricacies of his life and was able to discuss with him some of his experiences with the law that have made him the knowledgeable professor and person he is today.

Here is the text of the interview that was conducted between Professor Semeraro and I:

Amanda Litt (AL): Where did you go to law school?
Professor Semeraro (PS): Stanford Law School
AL: Did you always know you wanted to be a lawyer?
PS: No, but when I got to law school I realized I was really interested in it, and law school for me was more fun than undergrad.
AL: Where did you go to undergrad?
PS: Rutgers College
AL: Are there experiences in law school that helped you to be the professor you are today?
PS: Yes, definitely. I constantly think back about the things that happened in law school and take that into account for my own teaching. I always try to use the good things and discard the bad things. I had very few professors who just called on people cold and had them answer things about a case. I know I personally didn't like to talk in certain classes, so I tend not to force people to talk in my classes as much.

AL: When was your first real life experience; during law school or when you graduated?
PS: I don't think I had any real life experience during law school. There were not nearly as many opportunities as there are now in the legal practice. But when I got out of law school, I clerked for Judge Stephanie Seymour in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Tulsa, Oklahoma. If I remember right, the first case I worked on was a 4th Amendment civil rights case dealing with a search and what the standards were for the police to violate the amendment. Whether they had to intentionally violate the constitution or whether their actions were sufficient even if they did not intend it.

AL: That sounds exciting.
PS: Yeah, it was very interesting.
AL: What type of law did you end up practicing?
PS: I liked my antitrust class in law school. I don't know if it was my favorite class because it turned out to be my worst grade in law school, but I liked it. After I clerked, I ended up practicing mostly antitrust law. I would practice pro bono criminal law when I could. Those are my two favorite areas of law.
AL: What did you like most about pro bono work?
PS: It was just an opportunity to have more responsibility early in my career. It was also nice doing something for the public too.
AL: I read that you have published a lot of articles. What's your favorite subject to research and write about?
PS: It all depends; I go through phases. There have been periods when I have done a lot of anti-

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Student Spotlight

Brent Matthews
By Ian Van Leer, 2L
Executive Editor

For many students, like your author, law school is merely one of the final obstacles to face before entering the “real world.” Most of those with this mindset act and feel like school and its accompanying obligations are the sole present responsibilities, and the future looks unclear, as fields of practice and lifestyles are yet to be decided.

So, when I say that 2L Brent Matthews is an exceptional and inspirational Thomas Jefferson student leader, what I mean is that he is not only active on campus, scholastically and socially, working with his career objectives as guiding factors, but that he is able to work toward those objectives and handle his obligations, while balancing the trying responsibilities of being a young, married father.

Brent Matthews comes from a tax-oriented family in Oxnard, California. His father is a tax-law attorney and his brother is a CPA in the Oxnard area. Along such family lines, Brent studied accounting and finance in college, and, like his father, wants to be a tax-law attorney in California. Toward that end, Brent worked for Thomas Jefferson’s Professor Burns in the L.L.M. office doing tax research over the past summer.

Thus, it is no surprise to learn that Brent Matthews presides as president over the Tax Law Society. His primary duty, besides recruitment and the day-to-day operations of the Society, is to run the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The VITA program is authorized by the I.R.S. and involves students volunteering to aid the community with free tax assistance (such a caring heart!).

Our student leader Brent is also a proud, card-carrying member of the Jefferson Law Republican, which may or may not help explain his attraction to taxes. He also has been a member of the Immigration Law Society for the past year and a half. And, to balance his volunteered obligations with some gain, on many a day you can find Brent at the front desk of our library, where he diligently works to put the right books in your hands.

But Brent is not all work. He is, in his own words, “an avid soccer player,” too, and it is rumored that he has the best foot in Southern California. Brent likes playing basketball, and he has never turned down a ping-pong match either. In fact, if you were to walk into the student lounge at any given time it would not be a rare occasion to find Brent “pouncing it up,” as he might say. But be wary to challenge him, for he has an incredible record.

What I find most impressive about Brent, when viewed with busy work and school schedule, is that “When [he] is not doing the above, you will find him at the park with his kids.” Brent has two wonderful and beautiful children, aged 3 ½ and 1 years old, which means that while you were studying for class or filling out your law school applications, Brent was doing the former and holding his wife’s hand in the delivery room. (I was afraid to hear of the child rearing details involved with children that young. Too much for me to even hear about, but for Brent it’s a different story).

Brent juggles a terrifically demanding schedule of classes and extracurricular legal activities, an active social life appropriate for one his age, and the exacting yet rewarding duties of fatherhood. He truly has more responsibilities than many can balance as successfully as he, and that is why Brent is a Thomas Jefferson student leader.

La Raza
By Danaly Barajas, 2L
La Raza, Secretary

What Is La Raza All About?
The La Raza Law Student Association is a multi-cultural group of law students focused on advancing Latino and Latina academic success and serving our communities. La Raza is dedicated to making a difference at Thomas Jefferson by providing for our members a support system to preserve their culture and heritage in a profession that was not long ago an unrealistic aspiration for most Latinos/as. La Raza strongly encourages our members to use their legal talents to serve their communities, whether it be through legal advocacy, educating communities unfamiliar with the legal system, or through encouraging the younger generations to seek higher education. Finally, La Raza is dedicated to making a difference in American political and social arenas by encouraging discussion on issues that have a significant impact on our community.

What Does La Raza Plan To Do?
In addition to our dedication to continued success in legal academia, La Raza recognizes the importance of helping our community. Next semester, La Raza will host the second an...
Special Recognition of an Award Recipient: Vikram S. Monder

By Jeremy M. Evans, 2L
Editor-in-Chief

Congratulations and a job well-done to Thomas Jefferson School of Law student Vikram Monder. Vikram, a 2L, has been honored with the 2009 Service to the South Asian Bar Association of San Diego (SABA-SD) Award. Mr. Monder received this award because of his strong commitment and dedication to the San Diego Chapter of SABA. His record of accomplishment shows that he is a true student leader, which is further proven by his role in establishing the South Asian Law Student Association (SALSA) chapter at TJSL this past year. Mr. Monder laid down the platform for the SALSA organization and was able to connect with students in the San Diego South Asian legal community. These connections with the community were made possible by his notable personality and outstanding networking skills. He almost single-handedly served as the liaison between the South Asian legal community and the Federal Trade Commission website, “More than 3,000 manufacturers distribute nearly 330 billion coupons (worth an estimated $280 billion) every year in an effort to help consumers save money. Indeed, it is thought that 77 percent of American households use some eight billion coupons to save $47.7 billion on their grocery bills.” $4.7 billion is a lot, but it also means that about $275.3 billion in savings is essentially being tossed away.

I beat my record of $64 recently and managed to save $129.60 at Ralph’s. How do I do it? Coupons. I don’t use any Internet websites) but for the most part, I just go by the run of the mill coupons in the Sunday paper and a Ralph’s card membership, which is free. You also get rewards points for bringing your own bags to the store, and shopping frequently. I recently received a $12.00 gift certificate from Ralph’s for being a frequent shopper and for bringing my own bags. I have two IKEA shopping bags (the big blue ones), a Westlaw bag, and two newspaper bags. These bold EVERYTHING, and we usually only need to make one trip from the car).

The Sunday paper costs about $2.00. To save money (and be educated on the news) I got a monthly subscription of $6.00 and I receive Thursday-Sunday. This is still cheaper than four weeks of walking to the newspaper stand and buying one there. It also saves my quarters, which are precious for laundry.

The newspaper arrives and I have a system. I cut all of them out. Even things I don’t need/never heard of/will never buy. Yes, it’s time consuming but I do it while watching a favorite TV show. Once the coupons are clipped, I order them by breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack, and household (sometimes separated by kitchen and bathroom) and I’ll recycle the ones I never would use, but the best thing to do it to be a “little coupon fairy” for someone else (I’ll explain later). Then I put them in order according to date, so I know how long they’re good for. This is also time-consuming, but I keep them organized by an accordion folder. I’d rather spend the time and save the money.

It’s also important to note that a store’s flyer usually is created based upon what coupons are going to be out that week. So if Ralph’s is having a sale, like two pizzas for five, it’s likely because there’s a coupon

2L Manifesto:

Coupones are Not for Old Ladies

By Katie Tooma

According to the Federal Trade Commission website, “More than 3,000 manufacturers distribute nearly 330 billion coupons (worth an estimated $280 billion) every year in an effort to help consumers save money. Indeed, it is thought that 77 percent of American households use some eight billion coupons to save $47.7 billion on their grocery bills.” $4.7 billion is a lot, but it also means that about $275.3 billion in savings is essentially being tossed away.

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Work-A-Day Event

By Sarah Robinson-McElroy, 3L
ABA Representative & 9th Circuit Lt. Gov.

On October 23, the Student Bar Association hosted the “Financial Crisis Solutions” event as part of the American Bar Association Law School Division’s Work-A-Day program. The Work-A-Day program is an annual public service project that brings law students from across the country together to participate in a one-day public service project in their respective communities. Student Bar Associations (SBA) across the country were encouraged to create events during October to help their local communities cope with the financial and legal challenges that all are confronted with in the current economic climate. TJSL’s SBA chose to focus on our students, so help us deal with the financial issues that we face.

The event had various workshops, which touched on issues such as Housing and Eviction, Managing Credit and Debt, Job Loss, and Education Loans. In the Bar and Education Loans workshop, Marc Berman, Director of TJSL’s Financial Aid department, provided students with advice about securing bar loans and repaying education loans. Linda Stouffer, Vice-President of Torrey Pines Bank, the student banking option available through TJSL, gave a presentation on how to manage credit and debt in order to secure a successful financial future. Nikki Love, Career Services Advisor, also put together a presentation on tips for finding a job during hard times. The SBA also considered the outside community in their programming by including a fundraising aspect in the event.

The Work-A-Day event also included a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course on the U.S. Housing Crisis for San Diego attorneys. The Housing Crisis CLE was presented by San Diego attorney Gary Larumato of Kuick Realty, the Chairperson for the Community Service Committee of the San Diego County Bar Association. Mr. Larumato’s presentation provided an opportunity for lawyers to learn more about the various legal issues involved with the current housing and economic crisis. All of the proceeds from the CLE were donated to the Housing Opportunities Collaborative.

The Housing Opportunities Collaborative (HOC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting equal access to housing for all. The San Diego HOC also runs the HOME clinics in association with the San Diego County Bar Association. HOME Clinics are held in various community locations and provide homeowners access to legal resources and information. Homeowners also receive presentations on credit, budgeting, bankruptcy, and consumer protection resources. The SBA raised $400 for the Housing Opportunities Collaborative. For more information about Housing Opportunities Collaborative, please visit https://www.housingcollaborative.org/

Thank you to all who came and showed their support, and made this such a wonderful event.

1L Manifesto: Library Species, An Expedition Through TJSL

By Al Masland

After 4 months of law school, it has become clear to me that the library is a jungle of various genus and species that co-exist in academic harmony. I have taken it upon myself, along with other brave souls, to delve deep into the darkness to gain further understanding of these beings and the habitats in which they study. I pray, dear readers, that this study will both enlighten and engage your readers, that this study will both help you if you have taken their side of the library I recently discovered while researching for this piece.

A. Traits: 1. Predictable 2. Cannot handle change II. Seatius Studiatus, a creature with little care for the presence of another’s chattels. A. Traits: 1. Predator B. Habitat: 1. Same desk everyday III. Seatius Basmint, an adaptative species and yet one that requires sign of movement or rustle in a desk in a study room, or reading on the floor in the hall. As far as I can tell, nothing about how they sit in the most inconspicuous place in the library. Habitat: 1. High traffic areas and the common areas, posted up under stacks, perched in high traffic spots. B. Predators: 1. Strong ability to focus 2. Minimalists B. Habitat: 1. A.D.D.-esque 2. Insist on control 3. Predator Status: Unknown 3. Predators 2. Observant 3. Predator Status: Unknown VIII. Seatius Unablest, a species known for its complete inability to stay in one place. A. Habitat: 1. Cubicles and isolated desks I hope this information proves helpful as you spend the next few weeks in the library preparing for finals. I figure this can be a humorous way to observe and label your fellow students during an otherwise humorless time. If you happen to discover an unknown species, please write to maslanah@tjsl.edu. Special thanks to those who explored the library with me for this article. Good Luck on Finals.
Ten Interesting Thanksgiving Facts

By Brandi Haefs, 2L Advertising Director

1. Since we study the law, do you know how long Thanksgiving has been legally recognized as the “Thanksgiving Day” holiday? A: It was not until October 6, 1941 that Congress declared Thanksgiving a national holiday. The holiday was declared to occur on the fourth Thursday in November.

2. Any idea why we eat turkey on Thanksgiving? A: There is actually no official reason or declaration for the eating of turkey on Thanksgiving. Turkey meat just happened to be the most plentiful at the time of the first Thanksgiving and thus started the tradition.

3. Why is a male turkey called a “Tom”? A: Some believe Benjamin Franklin actually nicknamed the turkey “Tom” to spite Thomas Jefferson, because Jefferson was opposed to the turkey being named as the national bird. Considering Jefferson scoffed at the holiday and the bird, it’s a wonder we have the day off at TJSLS… but maybe I shouldn’t point that out.

4. Can you name the three U.S. cities named after Franklin’s favorite bird? A: Turkey, Texas; Turkey Creek, Louisiana, and Turkey, North Carolina.

5. Any idea how many turkeys are sold for Thanksgiving? A: In the U.S., about 280 million turkeys are sold for Thanksgiving celebrations.

6. What state do you think consumes the most turkey for Thanksgiving? A: Believe it or not, Californians are the largest consumers of turkey in the U.S.

7. How many Thanksgiving dinners include cranberry sauce? A: More than 94 percent of dinners include it, though cranberry sauce is available in different varieties.

8. Speaking of cranberry sauce, did you know that a lawyer invented the classic jellied cranberry sauce?

9. What about stuffing, how many Thanksgiving dinners do you think include it? A: Over 80 percent, and there are many regional differences including everything from oyster to raisins. By the way, 50 percent of Americans put the stuffing inside the turkey.

10. Guess how many calories the average American consumes on Thanksgiving. A: Reports vary, but range up to 4,500 calories! I hope that we will all get some exercise after our dinner or dinners.

Sudoku

Submit your finished Sudoku Puzzle to the SBA office for a chance to win a prize.

Name: ________________________________
Email: ________________________________
Phone Number: ________________________________
Puzzles will not be accepted after December 4th, 2009
“Mor” Distractions During Finals

Danielle Mor, 1L
Staff Writer

The word “distraction” is defined as a condition or state of mind in which the attention is diverted from an original focus or interest. Honestly, studying for finals is the last thing I want to do, but I know it is of the greatest importance. I can think of hundreds of better things to do, like hanging out with friends, shopping, sleeping or, more importantly, “Face-booking.” As I enter and exit the library, it has come to my attention that an abundance of students are on Facebook, including myself. I realize that Facebook is a huge distraction during finals time and that’s why I am going to give you a helpful hint. I recently noticed that you can temporarily de-activate your account. This may be an option for those of you who simply do not have the self-control to stay off Facebook. I am not saying that this is the most difficult task, but, naturally, we are easily distracted because we would rather be doing anything else but studying.

Another distraction that I have is my cell phone. I know what you are thinking, how could you live without your cell phone? Trust me, it can be accomplished! Although I do not encourage you to temporarily de-activate your cell phone account, I would however encourage you to turn it off or leave it in your car while studying. This allows you to focus, thus eliminating possible distractions. Distractions are inevitable everywhere. Removing the most easily accessible distractions can save you time and ensure that your finals experience is successful. Good luck!

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who shine in the competition. Serving as mentors to the middle school students, La Raza’s goal is to encourage the students who participate in LEAP to seek higher education. La Raza wants these students to know that they can seek higher education even if they would be the first in their family to attend college or feel like it would be impossible to pay for such schooling. Furthermore, La Raza, along with other student organizations at Thomas Jefferson, will be hosting a “Community Day,” in which our members will provide high school students with assistance in preparing college applications and securing alternative means of financial assistance. In the Spring, La Raza members will also be donating their time to Father Joe’s Village homeless shelter.

La Raza is an active organization at TJS that advocates principles of social, ethnic, racial, gender and sexual equality. We are an organization that provides not only a support system for law students, but also a forum for the students to have their voices heard. Should you wish to get involved with La Raza, please feel free to attend our next general meeting.

MANIFESTO, from page 6

down. We’re still getting used to the aisles (eventually I’d like to have it categorized by aisle too) and often we find ourselves forgetting things and having to go back to the previous aisle. As we’re going through our coupons that are on our list, if there is an item that is more expensive than the couponed item, we’ll buy the cheaper item and leave the coupon for someone else to use. This is what I call being a “coupon fairy.” Helping people save money. This is also a good thing if you clip coupons that you won’t normally use. You can leave those coupons near the items you would’ve never bought anyway. There are certain people who stick to brand names and/or organic, and leaving them something is like an extra treat, because those are typically a lot more expensive. You can also send your coupons that you’d never use to military families who might use them. There are lots of internet sights dedicated to this.

One more thing, use your head. Don’t buy things just to buy them! If you wouldn’t have purchased the item in the first place, don’t buy it now.

I’m not going to lie; we probably spend about an hour and a half to 2 hours at the supermarket. If you don’t have a lot of time, then my process is not for you. There are tons of websites out there with other advice on how to save, but let me give you some proof to show it works.

I went food shopping in the beginning of October. We were running pretty low on food so Andrew and I went shopping last week. I cut the coupons on Sunday and made the list. Andrew and I are going away for Thanksgiving and Christmas for approximately 3 weeks total. I bought 87 items (enough food to last us until January 5). My total before coupons and my Ralph’s membership was $336.36. After my membership rewards, my $12.00 gift certificate sent from Ralphs, the coupons I had (36), participation in the Ralph’s promotional event (another $5.00 on stuff I was already buying in the first place), I managed to save $129.87. Bringing my total to $206.49. That’s $68.83 a month savings for 3 months, or $34.42 for two people for 3 months. That’s breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a snack. I also picked up some donations for the SBA Adopt-a-Platoon event: Women’s Shampoo and Conditioner (by one each one free), Men’s deodorant and body wash/shampoo (free because I bought the deodorant), three toothbrushes (one was free), and two packages of Mentos gum ($5.50 with coupons), and Gatorade packets (full price). I did a good thing and it didn’t break the bank! I know I could always do better. There’s this lady called “the coupon mom” who took a news group to the supermarket and bought $100 worth of items and paid $0.25! But for now, this is working out pretty well.

Lastly, don’t be ashamed of your coupon use! Yesterday the line behind me was getting mad and angry because the clerk was taking so long scanning the coupons. I just said, “Wow, I just saved $129” and I could see their eyes bug out of their head. Dear patrons, I’m sorry you’re in a rush, but I’d like to save.

Besides, I took that $129.87 and bought a pair of boots (with a $10 coupon, I might add, and they were on sale), and Andrew is going to join the masses playing Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2. In the end, we’re entertained, stylish, and stuffed.
Ready and Willing

By Courtney Darnell
SBA, 2L, Class Representative

“Work Hard. Be Kind. Dream Big!” We quickly learned this is the motto at Central Elementary School, and we were proud to be a part of their goal for excellence.

A few of your fellow TJSL colleagues spent their Halloween afternoon at Central Elementary School to dress up and read to the youngsters.

Every year the Lawyers Club hosts a Halloween Read-In at Central Elementary. Melodie Dan (TJSL Student and SBA Treasurer) did an above-and-beyond job of getting the word out and recruited 80 lawyers, judges, and law students to participate at the event.

Upon arrival, the school principal (dressed-up as a kitty-cat) and vice principal (dressed-up as a butterfly) welcomed us with open paws and wings. We were politely escorted to our assigned classrooms by Central students, and were able to read and play with the kids for an hour. Every book that was read to the students was donated to the class, along with various school supplies and other needed materials.

After an animated rendition of Where the Wild Things Are and a romp around the room with the kids, we headed back to the library. There we found that the kids decorated and hand made a sack lunch for each of the volunteers. The feelings of youth and days at camp flooded the room as we all sipped Capri-Suns and got sticky PB&J fingers. We reluctantly bid farewell to Central Elementary and some volunteers eagerly signed up for the upcoming Valentine’s Day Read-in. Marty Strauss, 1L, said, “Friday’s Halloween Read-In was a great experience for me. With just a little of our time, we were able to help make these kids Halloween a little bit better.”

The children were precious. The school was such a kind and inviting host. Above all, the experience was moving and unforgettable. If you have a heart for kids and any desire to volunteer, contact one of your SBA members and we’ll gladly point you in the direction of these little guys.

 Phi Alpha Delta Presents:

“Wine, Cheese & Judges’ Pet Peeves”

A relaxed presentation designed to ferret out and prevent attorney blunders made in the court room and in trial preparation which annoy the Judge!

The Honorable Ann Bencivengo, U.S. Magistrate Judge
The Honorable Judith McConnell, Court of Appeal
The Honorable Gary Bloch ‘81, Commissioner

Friday, November 20th, 2009
6:00 - 7:00pm

Courtyard Building Room 200
at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law
2121 San Diego Ave, San Diego, CA 92110

A reception with music will follow the panel presentation.
FREE to all students and TJSL Alumni.
All Are Welcome!

MCLE credit available upon request for $10. Thomas Jefferson School of Law is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider. This program qualifies for MCLE Credit in the amount of 1 Hour.
Composed by
Sterling Williams, 2L

I object to Street Fighter not working. Can we get some Man vs. Capcom?

I object to “Identity Withheld” on Cheaters. You got caught! Man/Woman up!

I object to getting emails about the new books that are in the library. Who has time for casual reading? Anyone?

I object to the girls’ bathrooms for being so flippin disgusting!!!!!!! Learn to flush ladies!

I object to Bandwagon fans!

I object to having to register at 6am and then having the system crash! Great start to the day!

I object to Bandwagon fans!

I object to the scheduling of 3L classes on Friday afternoons. Throw us a bone already!

I object to political conversations in social situations. No one is changing anyone’s mind here people.

I object to all the Yankee fans who live nowhere near the East Coast, you are cool.

I object to Indigo Cafe changing me 10 cents for a plate to microwave my pizza that I brought from home.

Why can’t we Skype into class like the students taking L.L.M. courses? Parking & flu problems solved! (Bonus perks being, not having to deal with classrooms that are too cold, too stuffy, too stinky, and the numbing chairs).
The Criminal Law Society’s Fourth Annual Texas Hold Tournament Fundraiser

By Michael Juarez, 2L, Criminal Law Society, Fundraising Chair

Thanks to the Criminal Law Society (CLS), charitable Thomas Jefferson students and friends, $558 was raised for the Restorative Justice Mediation Program at the Fourth Annual Texas Hold’em Tournament Fundraiser. It was enjoyable to organize and participate in the games. This being my first time organizing an event, there was no way I could not have done it without the many people that lent a hand. Thank you! In the course of organizing the tournament, I discovered firsthand how supportive, thoughtful, and entertaining a community that we have here at TJSL. After attendee Professor David Steinberg outwitted a ‘professional poker player’, it supported my speculation that people with an interest in criminal law are distinctive, like Rob Machado is to all other surfers. It was my pleasure to support the community with such a distinctive group of people.

New Courses

Some other courses that are offered again in the near future (Judge Pro Tempore, San Diego County Superior Court; former Vice President, San Diego County Bar Association) Contracts Drafting – Prof. Thomas Golden Professional Responsibility – Prof. Leah Christensen, Adjunct Prof. Rudy Gerber (retired Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals) Trial Practice – Adjunct Prof. Lea Fields-Bernard (former Deputy City Attorney), handled over 90 trials) CA Bar Tested, but Not Required: California Civil Procedure; California Evidence; Community Property; Wills & Trusts Distance Education (ONLINE) JD courses: Entertainment Law; Transactions with Adjunct Prof. Novak; eCommerce Law with Prof. Akindemowo; (2L’s and 3L’s have the option to take these courses and it will count toward your J.D.) Some other courses that are unique, fairly new, or particularly interesting: Animal Law; Street Law; Mandarin Chinese for Lawyers; Sexuality, Gender, and the Law; Biotechnology Law; Technology Externship; Supreme Court Appellate Advocacy with Prof. Steinberg Courses that will most likely be offered again in the near future: Federal Criminal Law with Prof. Anders Kaye; Vice Law with Prof. Kaye; White Collar Crime

Thank you!

Class Schedule Options

By Dean Eric Mitnick & Jeremy M. Evans

After speaking with Dean Eric Mitnick, we wanted to share with every person some schedule options for the spring semester. We hope that you find the list helpful.

New Courses:

Advanced Civil Discovery Practice in California – Adjunct Prof. Chris Ramsey (a relatively recent alumus)
Art & Cultural Property Law – Prof. Jeff Slattery
Controlled Substances: Crime, Regulation, and Policy – Prof. Alex Kreit
European Union Law – Adjunct Prof. Neil Ray (associated with law firm of Sheppard Mullin)
Interpretations of International Criminal Law Issues – Prof. Linda Keller
Seminar on Community Economic Development – Prof. Luz Herrera
Solo Law Practice Management – Adjunct Prof. O’Neill (solo practitioner)

New Professors (in old courses):

Administrative Law – Prof. Ben Templo
Community Property – Adjunct Prof. Sanzo (longtime adjunct; also teaches Law Practice Management); Adjunct Prof. Klueck (Judge Pro Tempore, San Diego County Superior Court; former Vice President, San Diego County Bar Association)
Contracts Drafting – Prof. Thomas Golden
Professional Responsibility – Prof. Leah Christensen, Adjunct Prof. Rudy Gerber (retired Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals)
Trial Practice – Adjunct Prof. Lea Fields-Bernard (former Deputy City Attorney), handled over 90 trials)
CA Bar Tested, but Not Required: California Civil Procedure; California Evidence; Community Property; Wills & Trusts
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Thank you!

The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) is rounding out the year with some great programs and events. Be sure to take a look at the SDCBA’s online calendar (www.sdcb.org/calendar) for information and to register for CLE seminars, Section & Committee meetings and other Bar events and programs that might interest you. The online calendar offers comprehensive event information, downloadable CLE flyers, and most importantly it’s where you register for seminars and events. Please keep in mind that while it is rare, changes to event times or cancellations do occur at the last minute, however, up-to-the-minute event information is maintained on the SDCBA’s online calendar.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

December 4 SDCBA Annual Holiday Reception - Stepping Up to the Bar 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Stepping Up to the Bar is the SDCBA Annual Holiday Reception and installation of new SDCBA Board members and President. The event is a fun, social occasion and all SDCBA members, judges and law students are invited to attend. To RSVP, visit www.sdcb.org/steppingup.

SECTION & COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

12/07/2009 Children at Risk Committee Meeting 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM
12/07/2009 Ethnic Relation and Diversity Committee Meeting 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
12/08/2009 Appellate Court Committee Meeting 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

CLE SEMINARS:

12/02/2009 New CEQA Guidelines Regarding Climate Change Analysis: Real guidance or will the uncertainty about how to deal with the issue continue? 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
12/03/2009 Arbitration: How to Get the Most Bang for the Buck 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
12/09/2009 The Law and Elder Abuse: Identification and Prevention 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM
12/14/09 Bridging the Gap - Part I, Criminal Practice 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

(This program is for newly admitted attorneys and addresses best practices, process and procedures, common challenges, the importance of civility and how to avoid problems during your early years in practice. Visit www.sdcba.org/bridgethegap, for more information and to register.)

The Informer Newsletter
Page 13
Wild, Wicked, & Wonderful!

By Raj Matani, 2L
SBA, Social Chair

On behalf of the SBA and Administration, now that the masks and mayhem has been stoned away for the year, I would like to say thank you to all the students who made it to this year’s Halloween party. The best Halloween party yet! The haunting Kearing Hotel in downtown, San Diego was the location for this year’s party. From the time the doors opened around 9p.m. until closing, staff, and guests were treated to a variety of specialties. And let’s not forget about the costumes! The big winner were Marcellus Glasper as the ever-enigmatic “Prince”. Other winners included, Katie Tooma as “Lady Gaga”, Joey White and Scott Dunn as “?????” and Emma Goda as “Lady Liberty”. At midnight, special guest DJ and Entertainment Law Society President Victor Tsoi took over the turntables and brought the house down!!! Overall, it was a fantastic party. Again, I would like to thank all of the students for keeping professionalism in mind at all times during the party. Let’s continue this positive momentum for the rest of the school year! Have a safe and happy holiday season, and we will see you all next semester!

Soccer Wrap-up

By SBA Athletics

After an intense and highly competitive playoffs, the regular season points leader, Hannah Montana Fan Club, came from behind in the closing minutes of the championship match to capture victory over the reigning champions, Homegrown, Esq. The Fan Club for the alter ego of the daughter-actress of Billy Ray Cyrus had edged team Free Agency earlier in the evening in the second semi-final to set-up the championship match. The reigning champions managed to hold off the Catalina Wine Mixers in the first semi-final to return to the championship for the second year in a row. Catalina had defeated a feisty PAD side earlier to reach the semi-finals while Free Agency had advanced after their opponent conceded. Congratulations Hannah Montana Fan Club!

Classifieds

Help stamp out BSS, Broke Student Syndrome. Hardworking 3L will help with housecleaning, errands, gift-wrapping, and writing holiday letter, loving and reliable cat sitting, etc. Email: mona@123.edu.

If you would like to run an ad in our classifieds section please contact Brandi Haefs at haefsbm@tjsl.edu.
By Ian Van Leer, 2L
Executive Editor

It should come as no surprise when I say that legal research is an important, if not the most important skill, that you will learn while in law school. It is difficult, however, to perfect these skills in the brief introductions to Lexis and Westlaw that we receive during the initial Legal Writing I classes. Westlaw and Lexis are confusing to use, and “playing around” on these sites, imparts little, if any, practical knowledge.

Toward the end of my first year as a law student, once I had a job scheduled to begin after finals, I became increasingly nervous about my usefulness to my summer employer. So, when I saw an email from my Westlaw representative offering classes in case study and other topics, I jumped at the opportunity.

Both Lexis and Westlaw offer numerous training courses throughout the year. The courses are free to TJSL students and each one offered covers a different aspect of legal research: cases, secondary sources, legal treatises, etc. Furthermore, our incredibly helpful library staff and research assistants offer a vast array of classes (I believe in the library emails the classes are called “mini-classes”), to aid our development of these crucial research skills.

Not knowing the extent of my duties over this past summer, I only took the Westlaw case study class. It was a 50-minute interactive crash course in finding relevant and useful cases on almost any issue. After the class, I was far more confident in my research abilities and over the summer, I was much more efficient in locating sources to support my employer-attorney’s cases than I otherwise would have been. My only regret is not taking additional courses. For many of the topics assigned at work, I had to find new ways to research. For example, I should have taken the secondary source course. Had I taken that extra course, I would have had a much easier time in learning the basics of the issues, before I was to delve into the case searching and memo drafting.

I encourage—you to take at least one of these research-training courses. The courses will not only assist you with your internships and future employment, but will help you in your legal writing classes and research-based classes at school. The classes are short, ungraded, free, and you follow the instructor on your own computer at your own pace. Therefore, you get practice using the various tools Lexis and Westlaw offer. Do yourself a favor by taking advantage of our school’s research-assistance programs and learn how to use these resources while you can—for free!

Research:
It’s What You Need to Know

School starts:
Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Midterms:
February 24 - March 12, 2010
Finals begin: May 5, 2010

Spring Semester:
Important Dates to Remember

Potential customers are listening
Are you talking?
To advertise contact: Brandi Haefs, Advertising Director: Haefsbbm@tjsl.edu
Indigo Downtown
Call-Cajun Cuisine

1435 Sixth Avenue
619-702-6478

Mon-Fri: 7am-9pm
Sat: 8am-9pm
Sun: 8am-1pm

HAPPY HOUR DAILY 4PM-7PM
Full Bar

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
Serving Breakfast All Day

Show TJSI ID for a 10% discount on food

FULL SERVICE CATERING

Weddings
Rehearsal Dinners
Office Parties
Birthday Parties
Fundraisers
Quicenearas
Corporate Events

619-414-2230