Interview with the Mayor of San Diego, Jerry Sanders

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

On January 27, 2010, the Mayor of San Diego and I met to discuss issues confronting the City of San Diego, the progress and process of the new Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL) campus downtown, and other related issues. I had never met the Mayor before, but did see him once last year at the “Groundbreaking Ceremony” for our new TJSL campus. The Informer owes a thank you to Chris Saunders of the TJSL Communications Department for setting up the interview and allowing for a wonderful opportunity for TJSL to connect with Mayor Jerry Sanders.

Before walking into the Mayor’s office and starting the interview, his Press Assistant Christina Di Leva was very accommodating; she brought me a glass of water just in case my throat became parched during the interview. After a brief wait, I was called in to the Mayor’s office and we exchanged a smile and a firm handshake. He said, “Nice to meet you Jeremy.” I said, “thank you Mayor Sanders for meeting with me today.” He replied, “My pleasure.” Then, he motioned to the table, where I was sure the Mayor had numerous meetings and made many decisions. I felt like I was in the presence of a leader, and that I was about to learn something. We sat down, and I again thanked the Mayor for his time and affirmed that the questions I submitted earlier to Christina were the same as those I would ask during the interview. The Mayor, showing his sense of humor, replied, “Questions? Christina never gave any questions.” We had a laugh and then we proceeded with the interview.

Jeremy Evans (JE): What programs are in place or will be in place to combat the homeless problem in downtown San Diego?

Mayor Sanders (MS): There is no personal interest there? [laughs] [Referring to the new TJSL building downtown]. The homeless problem is not one problem; it is many different problems. Problems and issues like substance abuse, the mentally ill, the unemployed, battered women, and all require different solutions. One program that has been put in place is the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). In addition, there is a proposal before the City Council for a new 500-bed facility in downtown. The key is to provide supportive housing for those struggling with the various problems and issues of being homeless.

JE: What current or new programs are in place to combat crime in downtown San Diego and San Diego?

MS: Groundbreaking Ceremony: [Referring to the new TJSL building downtown]

JE: What current or new programs are in place or will be in place to combat crime in downtown San Diego?

MS: [The Mayor’s response is not clearly stated.

JE: Is there any progress moving forward? There is no good to come of dwelling in the past.

Many of our loved ones are currently in the midst of taking their bar. Law school and taking the bar is a lot about personal responsibility as to learning. It is about strengthening our self-assessment skills, taking practice exams to better conceptualize understanding and about asking for help. Here are some of the calculated steps that those before us have taken:

Legal Synthesis:

Legal Synthesis is the horse; it’s a powerful, fast-paced beast of substantive law review that students use to prepare for school credit in their last semester of law school. It is in Legal Synthesis that students focus on reviewing the substance of the law itself, through lecture, small groups, and the infinitely important process of applying that law in writing practice essays, performance tests, and taking actual MBE items. In fact, the June bar passage rate reflects our enthusiasm for our new campus.

TJSL mis-stepped on the July bar and our lackluster performance of 46% passage rate has students and teachers alike reflecting. Now I know what you’re thinking, DEAR GOD how could our performance suffer so much . . . well I cannot give you the answer to that. Statistics are just that, they are a number that in no way reflects the variables.

Now I do not want to excuse our performance on the bar, however I want to assess opportunities and options moving forward. There is no good to come of dwelling in the past.

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An Update on the Community Committee

By Marty Stratte, SBA 1L Rep.

Last week, the Community Committee (The CC), gathered to discuss the status of the organization and its projects. In addition to current members, many new members, several professors, and a dean attended.

Vera Valdivia, Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL) student and faculty member, briefly attended the meeting. She is a Marine Corps veteran and a former Charger Drew Brees, he is the local talent. Vera has a sister that is a politician. However, the truth is, once you get into political office you cannot help but to become a politician.

JE: What programs and city council projects can students get involved?
MS: I would recommend working with the CCDC (Centre City Development Corporation). We also have three-five internships here at any time, which require a variety of experience. You could also work in the council offices. I strongly encourage students and volunteers to get involved in a city project from the start; hear the testimony, and learn the political process. It is very important to see where the support and non-support comes from for particular projects.

JE: Your plans for future elective office if any? Staying put for a while.
MS: No, no more elective office. I am honored to serve and I have enjoyed the process. It is an interesting process. However, even as a cop, people like you more than as a politician. As a politician, you receive 55% of the vote and that is considered a good thing. During the last election, my wife reminded me that 45% of the people hate me (the Mayor smiles and laughs).

JE: Last, and most import and serious question. MS: Yes... Etc.

JE: Who will win the Super Bowl? Indianapolis or New Orleans?
MS: New Orleans. I have to go with former Charger Drew Brees, he is the local talent.

JE: Thank you.

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JE: Thank you.
By Teresa Watts, 2L  
BLSA, President

The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) of Thomas Jefferson School of Law is an active chapter of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA), the largest student-run organization in the United States. Originally founded by Alegeron Johnson “A. J.” Cooper in 1968 as the Black American Law Student Association (BALS), NBLSA is a national non-profit organization created and designed to articulate and promote the professional needs and goals of Black law students. In the 2009-2010 school year our local chapter has been making every effort to make our presence known in the community in order to develop healthy relationships. The bonds we make will build trust between the local community and our chapter while creating positive change.

BLSA started the school year with a mentoring program, which consisted of a small class at Our Center Place of SoFloLouis, founded by Dr. Ida Green. Members from our chapter attended the classes with the students and acted as mentors throughout the 8-week program.

In November, BLSA hosted its first Community Day at the Jackie Robinson Family YMCA. Community Day was the result of the combined efforts of the Family Law Society, Law Students for Reproductive Justice, La Raza, Phi Alpha Delta, and the Women’s Law Association. The purpose of Community Day was to focus on students, high school-aged through adulthood. There were tables set up with information providing cover letter and resume help, applications to the local universities and community colleges, as well as information regarding sexually transmitted diseases and the 2010 U.S. Census.

It has become a tradition for BLSA to host a Poetry Night, which the proceeds go to assist BLSA alum and to Vera Valdivia’s efforts in Haiti. We have supported her in the past and have continued our efforts since the massive earthquake. Immediately after the news of the quake was received, we contacted Vera’s daughter here in the U.S. to find out if Vera was okay and what the status of her children. Within a few days, BLSA had received donations from students and faculty and were able to donate $420 by the end of the week. BLSA also gave out red and blue colored pins to those who donated to show their support. Our efforts have not dwindled; on February 24 at 6:00 p.m., BLSA will host an Open-Mic event in the courtyard building as another fund-raiser. The event will feature live music, food, drinks and fun. The event is intended to be a social gathering for a good cause.

HICUP, from page 1
most of the in-class review revolves around reviewing the law through actual past bar exam hypotheticals—the best way to understand the law.

Bar Secrets

True to the maxim, we don’t put the cart before the horse. Legal Synthesis is required for admission into Bar Secrets. Bar Secrets first picks up where Legal Synthesis leaves off in terms of substantive review. For California-specific subjects like Community Property, Wills and Trusts, and California Evidence and Civil Procedure, among others. This mini-continuation of the Legal Synthesis structure as applied to California-specific subjects starts about a month before finals week and ends just before it. We don’t schedule bar prep during finals week. Students have enough to focus on during that time.

Bar Secrets then reconvenes just after graduation and runs up until one month out from California’s bar exam. This is really where the horse and the cart come together. The substantive law review from Legal Synthesis pulls the bar candidates through Bar Secrets, which focuses almost solely on practice, practice, practice—developing and fine-tuning the skills and techniques necessary for passing.

Most weeks the program meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (just like California’s bar exam) during which students write practice essays and performance tests, take simulated full day MBE sessions, and then go back and study and learn from those practice exams. Before students go home for what we call “Final Study” month, they write about 18 essays, 4 performance exams, and take three fully simulated MBE sessions.

Barbri

Barbri provides students with the necessary tools to pass by way of private tutoring sessions, substantive law lectures from nationally recognized instructors such as Erwin Chemerinsky, MBE workshops, performance test workshops, essay writing workshops, MBE software, graded assignments, and workbooks for substantive law review, MBE, essay, and performance tests.

Kaplan

Is another private 3rd party option that offers similar instruction, as does Barbri. Kaplan is composed of a Personalized Study Plan, practice essays, quizzes, MBE, Innovative Outline and Flexible Support from Experts. There are graded exams, guaranteed passage or free repeat, as well as direct feedback on individual progress.

Kaplan

We should continue to represent our brand, our school, and our passion for knowledge and the law.

There has been concern and rumor that TJSL’s July ’09 results would be concern for the ABA. ABA status is controlled by various factors, one such factor being Rule 301 (regarding bar passage percentages). For Rule 301, the average ultimate bar pass rate for the previous five complete years must be above 75%. As of this moment, TJSL’s five-year average is 78.8%. In addition, Rule 301 meets the standard if the ultimate pass rate for the previous five complete years is at least 75% for three or more years. As of this moment, TJSL’s ultimate bar pass rate for four of the five previous years is at least 75%. This policy is a look back policy, meaning that the running total of ¾ of bar passers is the controlling factor not the initial passing %.

To illustrate this, Dean Kransberger has supplied me with our schools 301 look back bar total passage rates.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>July</th>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>76</td>
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Even with all the available tools, we must prepare ourselves for this final hurdle. This is the culmination of our 3 years of late nights, hard work, study groups, outlining, case briefing, crying, laughing and growing. Law school is about our final hurdle, but it is also about the people, staff, and relationships that we build which last a lifetime. 100% of us have been, tried and achieved a personal goal or step toward the life we desire.

1. TJSL Administration
2. Tara Shas, Associate Director and Staff Attorney for Barbri
3. Kaplan Website: www.kaptest.com
Faculty & Staff
Spotlight

An Interview with Student Services
By Amanda Litt, 2L
Staff Writer

Where do you go when you need a question answered at Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL)? I bet Student Services is one of your first stops. Every time a student walks into the office, they are welcomed with Julie Garrent’s big smile and willingness to help. However, answering questions is not all the office does.

As all students and faculty know, Thomas Jefferson is a small environment where it is easy to get familiar with most people, but there are just some things that students do not always get a chance to know about. The Student Services Office is a huge part of the Thomas Jefferson community.

Students Services works very closely with other parts of the school to make sure that each department stays up to date on everything that is going on with the school. I had the privilege to get an inside look at Student Services when I interviewed Lisa Ferreira, Angela Bayne, and Julie Garrent. Lisa is the Director of Student Services and Angela is the Assistant Director. Julie Garrent, Associate, is the face of the office, running the front desk, student housing, and office support.

As soon as I sat down for the interview, I was welcomed with happy faces and laughter. Lisa and Angela literally finished each other sentences and seemed to be a very close team, which makes sense because they meet in undergrad. I know it seems like an easy question to answer, but I know students and faculty spend a lot of time in student services and I wanted to know what exactly they did up there. Lisa explained that the Student Services team works with student organizations, moot court, mock trial, and the summit program to provide services, information and support. “We do a little bit of everything,” Angela explained including graduation and disability services. This is exactly what I learned during the interview. Lisa and Angela both have a Masters in Family and Child Therapy, and they offer academic, confidential and personal counseling. When Lisa and Angela get off work at Thomas Jefferson, they both head to work at a residential home for women on parole and their children. At the residential home, they provide counseling services to women, children, families and couples. As the conversation went on it became very clear how student centered TJSL is.

Lisa has been working at Thomas Jefferson for 25 years. She started in Academics and now is the Director of Student Services. While explaining her background at the school it was clear that she has a very broad knowledge and lots of experience. Lisa explained that her favorite part of working at Thomas Jefferson is “seeing people realize their potential and seeing someone just grow.” Lisa is a native San Diegan. In her free time, she likes to run and make sushi, and when she has extra time, she makes Thai food.

Angela worked for the San Diego Unified School District and came to Thomas Jefferson in 2007. She said that there are advantages to being in a small school environment; one advantage is having the opportunity to tailor interactions with students. Angela enjoys her job because of the people she works with. She is a South Carolina native and when she is not working, she enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with her family.

Julie was born in England and moved to Detroit in the late 60’s. She worked at the emergency room at Whittier Hospital for 15 years before moving to Vegas to co-own a Furniture and Maintenance Company. She says that the best part of her job is helping students and being able to answer our questions. Julie loves spending time with students on and off campus because it gives her a chance to get to know everyone on a personal level that in turn makes Thomas Jefferson a special place. In her free time, she loves spending time with her Continued on pg 10.

NEWS

Staff Writer

Haefsbm@tjsl.edu

Advanced Property, Jurisprudence, and Law & Literature. When Professor Markey is not teaching she loves traveling with her husband and the extended family. The most memorable experience she has had as a professor is when one of her students came to her after midterms with a failing grade, very upset, and concerned. Professor Markey had a long discussion with the student about law school, studying, and how to balance the day-to-day things. Her student really took it to heart and got the highest grade on the final. On graduation day, the student approached Professor Markey and explained to her that reason he did so well in law school was the result of their discussion.

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Meet Your Leader
Sarah Robinson-McElroy
or, more precisely, American Bar Association (ABA) Student Division 9th Circuit Lieutenant Governor, like all of our previous Thomas Jefferson student leaders, has an impressive resume and is pointed toward her ultimate goal—to work in the field of international business law. What sets Sarah apart from her contemporaries is the path she is following to actualize her aspirations. Where the preceding student leaders have each sought change and leadership within our school, Sarah has aspired to and achieved, some would say, a higher level of prestige through success of a more expansive order.

Sarah Nationally
Sarah has, with her extraordinary persona and availing achievements, captivated the ABA officers and earned her appointment as the 9th Circuit Lieutenant Governor of ABA Representatives for the 2009-2010 school year. Although Sarah is too modest to admit it, one gets the impression that the ABA all but begged her to accept the position. Presently, Sarah, in cooperation with TJSL’s own and the next term’s newly elected ABA Governor Jessica Williams, oversees all of the ABA representatives Lt. Governor’s in the 9th Circuit’s law schools. Sarah and Jessica are engaged primarily in a public relations style project, which involves researching and recruiting from a vast population of law students. ABA membership, she assures us, is extremely beneficial. In addition to her already trying duties, Sarah also represents the ABA within TJSL’s Student Bar Association. As such, Sarah acts as the eyes, ears, and voice of the national Bar Association, so beware of her watchful presence.

Sarah at School
Sarah likes to get involved on campus, too. Over the past two years, Sarah has been an active member of the TJSL’s Law Association, and now participate in the Law Students for Reproduction Organisations. Sarah has also dabbled in the Sports Law Society, but that was at the direction of her Muay Thai and boxing trainer. Who asked about her training and technique, Sarah grinned and nonchalantly remarked, “Not that I fight, but...” and trailed off in a quizzical challenge.

Sarah in San Diego
The Muay Thai fighter Robinson-McElroy has also made her mark within the community. A San Diego local, Sarah graduated with a business major from San Diego State University. Before law school, she worked for the Padres, mostly in the corporate marketing department, but occasionally doing some sales-pitch instruction. Since then, Sarah has worked for an international biotech company in Sorrento Valley. There, she worked with adjunct Professor Randy Berholtz, assisting with his general counsel obligations.

Sarah and the World
The Lieutenant Governor is as worldly as she is intelligent and commanding. Not only has Sarah read all of the international literature she can get her hands on, she has also traveled most of the globe. Sarah has studied law in China, has seen the classrooms and courthouses of England, and has probably even vacationed in Mexico.

Our very own 9th Circuit Lieutenant Governor Sarah Robinson-McElroy has earned her stars. So, please salute your Lieutenant Governor and, if you have not already, join the American Bar Association.
The Jewish Student Union

By Hallie Tremaine, 3L
JSU, President

Oy Vey, What is the Jewish Student Union all About?
The Jewish Student Union (JSU) is a multi-cultural group (Yes! We are comprised of both Jewish and non-Jewish students) focused on enhancing and harboring stronger ties with our communities. The JSU is committed to making a difference at Thomas Jefferson by offering our members a support system by encouraging and providing opportunities to schmooze with fellow students, alumni, and attorneys while upholding our heritage. The JSU also strives to encourage networking with other law students in Southern California by regularly holding tri-law school events with the other San Diego law schools. Our organization’s numbers are growing, and with more student and faculty involvement, the JSU is constantly raising the caliber of events that we organize.

What Sort of Events does the JSU hold?
For many students, there is nothing like going home for a traditional home-cooked brisket and potato kugel meal for the Jewish holidays. However, several very spiritual Jewish holidays unfortunately fall during weekdays, during which Thomas Jefferson classes are held. Consequently, a plethora of out-of-state TJSL students are left stranded for such holidays, incapable of celebrating with loved ones. The JSU offers our own quasi-family, where any student who wishes to observe such holidays with others may do so. Last year, the JSU held our first Passover Experience Dinner. A dozen students showed up, totting a traditional item for the potluck meal, and celebrated the joyous holiday with our impromptu family. The event advanced phenomenally, which has turned this event into a highly anticipated highlight of the spring semester.

Furthermore, as networking and “schmoozing” are essential talents in the field of law, the JSU takes great pride in offering networking events to allow students and attorneys mingle and nosh. USD, Cal Western, and the TJSL Jewish organizations united this Spring in holding such an event. This event gave our members the opportunity to become more involved with the legal community as a whole, which proved to be a highly rewarding experience.

Tikkun Olam: Hebrew Phrase Synonymous for the Pursuit of Social Justice:
In accordance with the Jewish notion, “Tikkun Olam,” the JSU is an active organization at TJSL that advocates notions of social, ethnic, racial, gender, and sexual equality. We are a group that not only provides a support system for students, but also a medium in which members may voice their thoughts. It is my pleasure to invite any interested student to become involved with the JSU! Interested or questions: please email tremahhl@tjsl.edu.
Travel: Chris Paulos and the Sundance Kids

By Shelby Alberts, 2L
Staff Writer

Best decision of 2010: Sundance Film Festival! I know we are only about forty-eight days in, but unless someone takes me on a surprise summer jaunt back to the Mediterranean Riviera or backpacking Down Under, it would take a lot to top that weekend. This was an event put on by TJS1’s Entertainment Law Society, but open to all students. Participants came from all three classes, and some even brought guests.

Unlike the majority of the attendees, my girls and I started the trip with a lot of luck. Due to the “San Diego Tsunami” and possibly other unforeseen circumstances, Southwest Airlines cancelled all of their flights out of the San Diego Airport for a few days. Fortunately, someone from my group insisted that we book through Delta, for the purposes of flying non-stop. Unfortunately, about twenty-five of our contemporaries were on the afternoon Southwest flight. Although we felt bad, we were counting our lucky stars during the entire hour and forty-seven minute flight.

Upon arrival, one of the giant mega-vans that chauffeured us around all weekend picked us up. We drove about forty minutes to get to the mountain where our weekend palace awaited us, but spent another forty minutes to find it in the snow-covered neighborhood. We finally made it, and eagerly rushed to check out the swanky digs we would be calling home for the next four nights.

Chris Paulos, our esteemed leader, had outdone himself. He had organized the majority of the trip for the thirty-four of us that actually made it to Park City, Utah (as you may have heard, many of our ill-fated friends braved treacherous weather conditions and adverse setbacks in order to make it to the snowy ski town). The first delight Chris bestowed upon us was the gorgeous cabin he had rented for the weekend. I still do not know how many bed-rooms were in the house, but I do know that there was definitely room for all thirty-four of us.

Our quarters consisted of four queen-sized bunk beds, and our male counterparts had the same setup. There were also a handful of rooms built for two, with a king-sized bed. Other sleeping arrangements consisted of pullout beds, “Super Sacs” (the biggest dog bed/pillow I had ever seen), and a small area that we called “the dog’s room,” an area that could not be described by any other words.

There were two fully equipped kitchen-ets, a movie theater, a gym, and the best part: the downstairs room containing foosball, air hockey, pool, and ping-pong tables. Once we figured out how to connect our iPods to the sound system that went through the whole house, we never had a hard time staying home or spending time in the house after going out. Much to the chagrin of some early risers, the only rule we really had to follow was, “Don’t move the furniture!”

We definitely took advantage of the Park City nightlife, something I am sure only occurs during Sundance. Main Street is a hill that goes through downtown, and it is the location of most the bars and restaurants. We were dropped off or took cabs into town and hiked up and down the hill, barhopping while hopping not to slide down the sidewalk in our shoes. By Saturday, we were definitely sporting snow boots with our dresses. It was packed, and we often had to pay cover, but we always had a blast. We were invited to Lil Jon’s after party, but at $3000 for the nineteen of us, we had to decline. I never knew Utah got down like that.

The most obvious feature of a film festival is, of course, the films! Another fruit of Chris’ labors was a variety of movie tickets. Every one of us was given at least three movie tick-ets, which were distributed according to everyone’s film preferences. If we did not receive tickets for something, we wanted to see, we were able to do something called wait listing. You go to the theater two hours before the movie and receive a number, and then you hope there are enough open seats.

Tickets were pretty reasonable at fifteen dollars, so we weren’t limited as far as films go. For the most part, the only films that were impossible to get into were the biggest names of the festival, although I will mention that some people did have a little struggle in the wait-listing department. The films were shown in many different thea-ters; most were small, and some were old and picturesque. The most exciting part was that after seeing the movie, there was always the option of hailing the slopes. Every person in our group was also given a lift ticket for a day of snowboarding or skiing. I took the hodding option, and I cannot remember taking advan-tage such great snow conditions that we had. It had been snowing since we arrived on Thursday, and a group of us hit the trails for a half day on Saturday. I actually must admit that my skill was not even good enough to keep up with all that powder! I had to dig out once, but the snow was so amazing, it was worth it.

The last night in the cabin was definitely one of the high-lights of the trip. The boys figured out the High Definition TV that spanned across a giant wall in just time for the Saints/Vikings playoff game. A few of our friends cooked everyone a huge dinner with all the leftover food in the house, and then we all gathered up in the theater to watch the Entourage episode when the boys went to Sundance.

During Sundance, I cannot say that I met many entertainment law attorneys, however, I can say that the experience was once in a lifetime. Although, I must admit that I will definitely be returning now that I have learned the ropes, and if the Entertainment Law Society keeps up the tradition, this is a school event that comes with a high recommendation from me.
A Malaysian court has found two people guilty and ordered them to pay a fine of four buffaloes and a pig for having an extramarital affair.

The owner of the “Heart Attack Grill” in Arizona is suing “Heart Stoppers Grill” in Florida accusing them of plagiarizing the IP rights of the themed restaurant, which boasts death-defying meal options like the “quadruple bypass burger”.

In Germany, in-laws will now be able to reclaim gifts made to their children’s spouses if the couple’s marriage does not last, following a landmark decision in which a man was originally given around €29,000 ($40,000) by his in-laws to buy a house. However, after he and their daughter divorced, he got the house and the in-laws wanted it back.

Chinese people who live in government-sponsored housing in a prosperous southern province may soon be evicted if caught repeatedly spitting in public according to a new draft plan.

A lawsuit in Florida claims a dentist left a drill bit in a woman’s mouth for nearly a year after another surgeon finally removed an inch-long piece of steel from her mouth.

A Wisconsin man serving life in prison for first-degree intentional homicide lost his legal battle to play Dungeons & Dragons. He argued that the policy banning all D&D violated his free speech and due process rights, but prison officials successfully asserted that playing the game promoted gang-related activity and was a threat to security.

A New Yorker faces a $135 traffic fine for using a mannequin as her passenger in the HOV lane after police saw the “passenger” wearing sunglasses and using the visor when it was overcast.

A Maryland judge has apologized for engaging in a bit of vigilante justice when he let the air out of the tire of a court-house employee who parked in a restricted area.

A woman in South Korea finally succeeded in getting her driver’s license on her 950th try. She spent more than 5 million Won ($4,200) in application fees to earn the 60 out of 100 points needed.

As if that was not bad enough, Florida police say another man was arrested for repeatedly calling 911 looking for sex because he was the only number he could dial after running out of cell phone minutes. The man made explicit comments to the 911 dispatcher and asked if he could come to her house after she hung up be called back four more times.

A woman in India successfully divorced her husband after he refused to allow her to watch television soap operas.

A man in Quebec was too proud to beg for bus fare, so he stole an SUV to get home.
No Objection to going Single to Bar- rister Ball!

No Objection to the Saints winning their first Super Bowl.

Object to finding out the limit to my Netflix Queue is 500. Darn!

Objection to spending over $100 to join a Law School Club!

I object to there being no student advocacy group available for students with problems that need to be addressed by someone other than faculty or staff or "liaison" with the school. SDSU does: http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/ombuds/faq.html.

Objection to the old guy that sat next to me on the plane and came across a topless picture of his wife on his computer. Awkward!!

Objection to my professor's statement "Oh my God, I'm naked again"!

I object to having plans for spring break.

No objection dreaming about taking class in the new Building, only ten more months.

Objection to being able to afford the food at the Indigo Cafe.

I object to my professor wanting to go to Vegas for Spring Break.

Objection to spend- ing over $100 to join a Law School Club!

Object to my professor yawning aloud towards the end of the lecture. What does that tell you??

I object to the above person objecting! You can't critique grammar when you don't even put punctuation inside the quotes, where they grammatically belong.

Objection to my Con Law professor insinuating that justices used to watch porn on the job..."in their loose fitting robes" HILARIOUS!

No objection to having a Blackberry and all of your friend's playing Scrabble on their stupid iPhones.

I object to the ladies' bathrooms being so disgusting. Ladies, we don't want to flush your stuff for you, please take the extra second required to hold down the handle.

I object to having to go to Vegas for Spring Break.

I object to almost skipping class, but showing up to have your professor talk about Playboy!

No objection to Taco Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Object to the staff of "The Informer" having such poor grammar and spelling skills. How do you not know the difference between "add" and "ad"?? PROOFREAD YOUR ARTICLES!!!

"Might get me excited and I don't know what I'll do," No Objection!

I object to spending over $100 to join a Law School Club!

Objection to people who have an excessive amount of messages in their inbox. Seriously, read and delete!

I object to my professor yawning aloud towards the end of the lecture. What does that tell you??

Objection to crappy weather in San Diego. That is not why I moved here!

Objection to almost skipping class, but showing up to have your professor talk about Playboy!

No objection to having plans for spring break.

Objection to not being able to afford the food at the Indigo Cafe.

Object to finding out the limit to my Netflix Queue is 500. Darn!

I object to the school taking the Tax Law room over break without notice or opportunity! Did they not take Con Law 1?!
IL Manifesto: A Sit Down Discussion, Unreasonable Questions for the Reasonable Man

By Albie Masland

Albie Masland (AM): Mr. Reasonable Man, do you have a real name?

Reasonable Man (RM): Yes, my given name is Bridge MacNamara.

AM: Is your name really Bridge?

RM: Yes, I was actually born under a bridge so my parents named me after the first thing they saw and that was a bridge. Lucky for me they didn't see the hobos by the trash can.

AM: Ha ha ha, yes, lucky for you indeed.

RM: Next question, do you like Ketchup, Mustard, or both on your hot dogs?

AM: I like both actually. I place the ketchup on the left side and the mustard on the right. I never saw a need for relish.

AM: Very interesting. I had you pegged for a strictly ketchup kind of guy.

RM: Next question, how much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

RM: Could you please define "Chuck"?

AM: Um, you just chuck it, you know? I guess it means to cut down.

AM: Well in that case I feel a woodchuck is capable of "chucking" at least two trees a day.

AM: Wow, what a reasonable response. I would have said thirty-two trees minimum.

AM: Next question, what was the last song you downloaded on your iPod?

RM: The new "We Are The World" song. I like to give back when I can and all the proceeds go to the relief efforts in Haiti so I figured it was a no brainer.

AM: An excellent choice, however, I'm partial to the original version.

AM: How do you feel about people carrying dogs around in purses?

RM: I think it's absurd. Would you carry a Dalmatian around in a suitcase? I don't think so. Let the dogs walk, they have four legs. That's how I see the matter.

AM: I couldn't agree more.

AM: Have you ever "Leggo'd" someone's Eggo?

RM: Yes, I leggo'd my little sisters Eggo, but it was only because I didn't realize it was hers. I would never purposefully leggo someone's Eggo.

AM: Tones MaGots?

RM: I don't know what that means.

AM: Moving right along, would you rather have first dibs or the last laugh?

RM: Well, I've always believed that he who laughs last, laughs longer.

AM: And I've always believed that he who laughs loudest, laug hes louder so let's just call it even.

AM: Are you down with O.P.P.?

RM: You know me!

AM: Actually I don't know you, but that was the correct response.

AM: Ok, this is my last question. Is it true that if you don't use it you lose it?

RM: Use what, lose what?

AM: You know, "it".

RM: This interview is over.

AM: Actually, the interview is over when I say it's over. This interview is over.

Tune in next week when we sit down with Bernhard Goertz... just kidding.

Virgil “The Man” Leonard

By Courtney Darnell, 2L

Staff Writer

Many of you may know him as the “IT guy” or the elusive young man who graces your classrooms to set up equipment. Virgil Leonard however is also a devout lover of the combination fried rice of China too. He has a turn around rate that puts the Greek Squad to shame when it comes to his laptop genius. Despite all of this however, there is more to Virgil Leonard than meets the eye.

Not surprisingly this gentleman is from the South. Born in Valdosta, Georgia Virgil says he misses Tidetown, USA. Although the sunny skies of San Diego are hard to beat he often reminisces on the southern hospitality of family and friends at home. Virgil dreams of one day returning home and being the head coach of his old high school football team. I say we get him on an AM team next semester to prove his skills before we let him head back East. I’m sure we all selfishly agree we hope he isn’t leaving us any time soon, however being from the South myself, I can dig the sentiment.

A few vague rumors have circled the halls of Thomas Jefferson regarding some services, from page 4

family, reading, and traveling.

Lisa, Angela, and Julie are such a big part of student life on and off campus. All of their contributions and hard work not only make Thomas Jefferson a student-centered law school, but also makes us a big family. So, where do you go when you have a question at school? Student Services is willing to help in any way they can and if they cannot, they will find someone who will.

Funny School Experiences – Shared by TJSL Faculty, Staff & Students

By Hadas Livnat, Librarian

Law school:

We were discussing 2 Live Crew’s parody of Roy Orbison’s “Oh, Pretty Woman” in Intellectual Property class and I tried to argue that it’s fair use because the lyrics of 2 Live Crew’s song (which is about a bald and a hairy woman) parody Orbison’s romantic, sentimental lyrics, about this wonderful woman that he met. After a pause, the professor said delicately, “A pretty woman is a lady of the night.” Everyone laughed because I did not know that the pretty woman of Orbison’s song was supposed to be a prostitute. (It did shed a light on the Julia Roberts movie use of the song.) A moment later, I raised my hand again and offered another argument in light of this new information, of which the professor approved. But I cannot for the life of me recall what it was this incident is all clouded by my embarrassment over my cultural ignorance. (I came to live in the United States at age 12 so I suppose that some of the finer aspects of its culture are still lost on me.)

High School:

I was spacing out in my French 4 High School class while we were practicing the future tense, and the teacher called on me. I was nonplussed since I had no idea what I was supposed to say, and another student tried to help by whispering, “Say what you want.” So I said the first thing that came into my head, which was, naturally, “I want ice cream.” But it turned out that what I was supposed to say was not what I want, but what I want to be. (In the future). My teacher was the impudent, aerytype, and she snapped, “No, you DON’T want to be ice cream, because the sun will come out and you’ll melt.” I still laugh every time I remember this. (And for the record, I am the gourmet homemade organic specialty served only at upscale restaurants. Chocolate flavored.)

If you would like to share a funny school story, please email evansjm@tjsl.edu.

“unexpected” student layoffs in the IT department. These rumors were squashed and reassured that the issue can be chalked up to being no more than students running out of Federal Work Study funding and therefore could not longer continue with hours. Turn those frowns upside down, and don’t fret my pets.

When looking out upon that horizon we call life, ten years from now Virgil sees himself back in Atlanta, at the Georgia Dome, sitting pretty watching his Falcons play from Press Box seats. If this article makes it to the NY Times Virgil and makes you famous I will humbly accept the seat next to you in honor of your gratitude. © Until the 2020 pipedream arrives we get the pleasure of seeing his shining face around campus. And next time you do, give him a pat on the back for all his hard work and a job well done. Oh and maybe humor him with a “Go Falcons!”
Then five babies come floating down the river, and the guys jumps in the river to save to the five babies. He saves them, and then he gets out and he is looking at the other guy. Then 7 babies come floating down the river, and he jumps in and he saves the baby. The he says “What the [heck] is wrong with you? Why aren't you help- ing me save any of these ba- bies?” The guy does not say anything. Then 10 babies come floating down the river and he jumps in and he cannot save all the babies, so some of the babies die. And he looks at the other guy and says, “What are you doing, why aren't you help- ing me save any of these ba- bies?” The other guy says I want to go up river and see who is throwing all of these babies in the river.

So the idea is, as to why I am in law school, to try to affect the institutions that breed the systematic problems rather than try to save all the babies – rather than try to provide direct ser- vices to the hundreds of thou- sands of the people in the inner city. I am not going to be able to help all the people.

JL: Do you have any hobbies – or do you even have time for hobbies?
SH: Yeah, [besides the many things I am involved in], my hobby right now? Buying a house, or a condo. Dance. I write poetry. I roller-skate.

JL: Is that traditional roller- skating, or are you talking about rollerblading?
SH: New, it’s the roller-skates! I’m 32 years old! I can’t do the rollerblades, that’s just hard.

JL: What do you like the most about TJSL?
SH: Jeremy Evans! (laughs) I think there are a lot of really smart people here. So even the people that I disagree with, phi- losophically or politically, the people are still smart. I like being around smart people.

JL: Do you have any strange or funny anecdotes you can tell me, about yourself?
SH: (laughs) That question just gave me flashbacks. A funny story...Oh, well it’s kind of funny, slash depressing. When I was 17, I was diagnosed with a terminal incurable illness called Myasthenia Gravis, which is like muscular dystrophy or multiple sclerosis. They told me I had three to ten years to live when I was 17, now I’m 32, so that’s 15 years later. But I grew up in a Muslim home, so I hadn’t been in the church or around a priest or anything like that. And one day I was in intensive care and the room was dimly lit, and a priest came in and he did some prayer for me. But I thought I had died, so I thought it was my final rites or whatever. So my mom came in and she was talk- ing to me. And I said, “I’m dead!” (laughs) “You can’t talk to me, I’m not here!” That’s my depressing slash funny anec- dote. I was convinced I was no longer alive – and obviously – well I think, I still am!

JL: Why “Mr. Sid?”
SH: There’s a story! I was with four 16-year-old boys at the mall, walking them around from employer to employer. I would do this twice a week, I did this for years. I took a group of young people to the mall, from the hood, between 14 and 18 years old and teach them how to talk to employees. So one day...well, Sid is because people used to mess up my name all the time, so Sid just stuck.

So I took them to the mall, and they were flirting with girls and I was irritated. And one of them said, “Sid, your job is so much fun! You get to hang out all day!” And I was like, “Oh, that’s bogus.” And then the next day, one of them said to me, “Sid, your job is easy!” And I said, “You know what? You guys have no idea. Sit down. You don’t know what you’re talking about. This is my job, but I’m not getting paid for what I’m doing for you right now. I’m going beyond the duties of my position. And you’re going to call me Mr. Sid from now on.” It stuck and everybody started calling me Mr. Sid. The only person who doesn’t call me Mr. Sid is my mom. She just calls me Sajad.

JL: Do you have anything else you would like to add?
SH: No, thanks.

JL: Awesome.
Grieves: Why Embracing the Stress and Pressures of Law School is Healthy

By Jeff Hutchins, 2L, SBA Class Representative

This past semester I completed my third round of law school. I analogize each semester to a boxing match because I feel battered and beaten after each semester. No longer the naive and inexperenced First Year, I am able to look back, and fully grasp the purpose of law school, and understand what this formally mystic journey forces me to accomplish.

I discuss this topic because in the past year and half I have debated many times, mostly during finals and in a negative manner, how much the process of law school can seem illogically constructed. This article examines the dynamics of our schooling in attempts to pinpoint what we are doing here and what we should be obtaining from this tumultuous phase of our professional lives.

The obvious purpose of law school is the completion of another required step in the long process of becoming an attorney. Here I question not the end goal, gaining a JD, but the means in which law school get us there. The simplest answer is “because it is required”. In order to be accepted into law school, and understand what this formally mystic journey forces me to accomplish, dates the digestion of large amounts of information, applying the law to the facts, and presenting the likely outcome. Coupled with this process is the balancing of networking, externships, and developing into a mature professional. It is this first prong, the testing and mass memorization that prompts me to gripe and complain.

Every semester about half-way through dead week I find myself perplexed and bitter about the ludicrous amount of information students are expected to retain. This “anger basking” and “law school loathing” helps me cope with the stress. Looking back on my mini-manic fits, I have learned to dismiss these feelings because this heavy burden of memorization and testing is imposed for our benefit. This benefit is best summed up by an encounter I had last week. In the library, I struck up a conversation with a fellow TJSLS student who was studying for the February Bar. We discussed the school’s bar passage rate, how this number fluctuates at extreme rates, and that it is important to keep perspective and acknowledge the challenge of passing the Bar.

I seek not an “Oh Captain, my Captain” (Dead Poet Society references for you non-film buff fans), but I do seek to share my recent personal paradigm shift. When overwhelmed or stressed with the class load or materials mandated for the next test, be happy with the fact you are being forced to understand, process, and apply these concepts BEFORE taking the bar. The time and effort put forth now will ease the challenge ahead.

We are happy to announce that Thomas Jefferson School of Law is partnering with Critical Race Studies program at UCLA Law School to present two exciting events.

Intersectionality Conference at UCLA Law School of Law with TJSL, March 11-13, 2010

First, the Women and the Law Project at Thomas Jefferson Law School is a principal co-sponsor of UCLA’s 2010 critical-race studies conference, which will bring a national set of speakers to talk about intersectionality. Intersectionality is the idea that members of multiple marginalized classes (such as women of color) face special challenges due to the intersection of those categories. It is an important concept in many areas of law including civil rights, racial justice, women’s rights, international human rights, and LGBT rights.

The intersectionality conference will bring together a national group of extremely well regarded scholars including Catherine MacKinnon, Mari Matsuda, Patricia Williams, Angela Harris, and dozens more. If you have any interest in civil rights law, feminist legal theory, LGBT rights, or human rights law, you will want to attend the conference. Speakers will discuss race issues, international law, rights of sexual minorities, and a variety of related topics. In addition to other speakers, several TJSLS faculty will be speaking at the conference including Professors Julie Greenberg, K.J. Greene, Rebecca Lee, and Kaimi Wenger.

In addition to the free registration, we are putting together plans regarding transportation, housing, and meals for TJSLS students. The ultimate plans on those fronts will depend on the size of the TJSLS group attending. If you are interested in attending, you should:

1. Register for the conference online at: http://crsonline.law.ucla.edu/CRS_Program/Annual_Symposium/03.11.10
2. E-mail faculty assistant Donna Gebilken, at dgebilken@tjsl.edu

Ruth Bader Ginsburg lecture at TJSL with UCLA School of Law, April 30, 2010

Our keynote speaker will be Kimberley Crenshaw of UCLA and Columbia law schools, who are one of the country’s leading scholars on women of color and critical race theory. Professor Crenshaw’s lecture will be accompanied by a panel of distinguished scholars. More details on the timing and registration of the Ginsburg lecture will follow.

In closing, law school is not just a simple step in the process of becoming a full-fledged lawyer. More importantly, these three years are the precursor for the most important exam of your academic career-The Bar Exam. Next time school seems impossible or a waste of time, close your Facebook page, close your eyes and picture yourself sitting down to take the bar exam.

Community Committee

“SICK OF THE HOMELESS? SO ARE THEY!” CAMPAIGN

Date: February 22, 2010 through the end of the semester
Drop: Student Lounge and Student Services Office at TJSL
WHY: The “Sick of the Homeless? So are they!” Campaign will be starting a clothing drive February 22, 2010, that will last until the end of the semester. Donations will go to the Father Joe’s Villages. Our mission is to provide a “Continuum of Care” that promotes a pathway to self-sufficiency and independence. All clothing is welcome, but business attire is especially appreciated.
By Kevin Vesely, 2L  
Co-Athletics Chair, SBA

As the regular season comes to an end and the playoffs appear on the horizon, it can be said that the intramural basketball season has been packed full of tight contests with each team striving to claim the title of “Champion.” While holding onto dreams of a new t-shirt on their backs, the eight teams who have advanced to the playoffs will each be fighting to survive and ensure their progression into the semi-finals and, ultimately, the championship game.

After the conclusion of the final regular season games this Saturday, February 20, the quarterfinal match-ups tip off with Vic’s Locos against Kevin Vesely’s Hufflepuffs, then From Way Outside versus the Wolfpack, while Overly Competitive and Boston 3 Party square-off in the last game of the evening. The fourth quarterfinal game between Big Daddy J & the Shredders and Bomb’s Away will be played when the quarter-finals resume on March 6, as will both semi-final games and the championship game.

With each squad believing that this is their year to win the championship, the playoffs are anticipated to be a real clash of the titans, all highly competitive and exciting affairs. So come out and support your fellow classmates and friends as they strive for new levels of greatness!

Please email sbaathletics@gmail.com for directions to the YMCA facility.

The 2nd Annual Outdoor Club Chili Cook-off is a SUCCESS

By Pejman Kharrazian, 2L  
Outdoor Club, Vice President

The 2nd Annual Outdoor Club Chili Cook-off was another success. The Cook-off has been the marquee event for the Outdoor Club, which is only in its second year on campus and growing strong.

Adam Owen’s Tri-Tip Chili won the top prize with Jocelyn Neudauer and Chris Paulos tying for 2nd place. Prizes included tickets to TJSL’s Barrister’s Ball and the ILS Monte Carlo Night.

He might not have one a Prize, however, the Mediterranean “Delight” Chili was something to savor. Thank You Pejman!
Student Chapter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund of Thomas Jefferson School of Law (SALDF of TJSL)

Mission Statement and Purpose

The SALDF of TJSL is dedicated to providing a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system, and raising the profile of the field of animal law.

The SALDF of TJSL is dedicated to the goals of educating the law school and surrounding community about forms of institutionalized animal abuse, and engaging in projects that combat that abuse. The SALDF of TJSL is equally dedicated to protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system.

Proposed Ideas and Events

- Animal Law Class Advocacy: Encourage enrollment in the Animal Law class and Wildlife Law class already offered at TJSL.
- Charity Events: Hold charity events that may include bake sales, silent auctions, dog walkathons, and companion animal photo contests. An Animal Adoption Day with the San Diego Humane Society is part of the main agenda. Encourage signing petitions to stop the killing of seals in Canada after the Canadian Olympics in cooperation with PETA.
- Conferences and Competitions: Attend animal law conferences and competitions to compete and network with other law students, SALDF members, attorneys, and professors. The ALDF website has a list of upcoming animal law conferences and competitions that the SALDF of TJSL will post.
- Education and Outreach: Organize a information table on campus to raise awareness about animal issues and the field of animal law.
- Guest Speakers: Host speakers, debates, panels, and conferences on current issues in animal law, in order to raise the profile of animal law on campus, to network and meet leaders in the field.
- Letter Writing: Organize members to write letters and make follow up phone calls regarding pending local, state, and federal legislation that affects animals. Submit written comments when the USDA, FWS, or other agencies decide to change their rules and regulations.
- Litigation: Contact local attorneys, both in private practice or who work for nonprofit organizations, and volunteer time to conduct legal research and writing. Contribute to the criminal defense and political support of animal activists.
- Local Issues: Develop community resource materials, such as a list of pet-friendly housing in the area. Arrange for members to visit court as “court advocates” for animal abuse cases in support of animals.
- Newsletters: Publish weekly or monthly newsletters that include information about pending legislation, community events, SALDF chapter activities, upcoming animal law conferences and presentations, ways to get involved with our chapter, and other animal law related news and updates.
- Press Coverage for SALDF Projects: Reach out to our local press outlets to let our community know about our work for animals, and to educate people about the growing field of animal law.
- Support for Local Activists: Help facilitate animal activism by using members’ legal background to read the relevant ordinances (for example noise ordinances) to help activists organize effective demonstrations while also complying with local laws. Support animal activism by using member’s legal training to obtain relevant information for campaigns. Our legal background will help sort through documents like California’s Public Records Act to find out what information is available to the public and possibly file FOIA requests to obtain this information.

SALDF Officers and Open Positions

Professor Madeline Kass, Faculty Supervisor, mkass@tjl.edu
Jesse Majors, President, majorsja@tjsl.edu
Bill Epstein, Vice President, epsteiwp@tjsl.edu
Open Positions: Treasurer, Secretary and Public Relations Officer. Contact majorsja@tjsl.edu.

Do not miss your opportunity to be a part of the most Exciting Night of the Year, Tickets will only be Sold through March 12th. No Day-of Sales!