Thomas was convicted of a 1978 rape when a witness took down his license plate, making him eligible for the LAPD’s database. At that time, his DNA was swabbed and the results linked him to two strings of serial rapes and murders: the Westside Stranger murders of the 1970s and another in San Gabriel Valley in the 1980s.

While I have no problem with 74 year-old Thomas going to prison, even though 20 years had passed since his crimes were allegedly committed, I question the method for his capture. Thomas raped a woman, went to jail, served his sentence, and was freed. Nearly 25 years later, because of his requirement to register as a sex offender, he had to submit to having his DNA in a database. The result in this case was the right one. However, I have trouble with the fact that for certain crimes the state can require convicts to submit to additional responsibilities following the completion of their punishment.

There is a class of crimes for which legislators, law enforcement, and the general public demand added protections for the public after the criminal’s sentence is completed. Specifically, these crimes are (in California) sexual assault, domestic violence, and child molestation. We find these types of crimes so heinous that the rules of evidence allow prior accusations (not convictions) to be introduced into court when a person is charged with a crime within these classes.

California Evidence Code Sections 108.109 are siren statutes addressing sexual assault and domestic violence written into law because there is the belief that the persons who commit these types of crimes are almost guaranteed to repeat, and that the crimes are generally difficult to prosecute. I agree that these classes of crimes are horrible, but the difference in which we treat these offenders to someone who commits “regular” murder is incongruous. The argument for this class of crimes is based in problematic logic that can be applied to a list of crimes, and not all that are violent. This opens the door to searches of a larger population based on the same logic but without a minimum test of reasonable suspicion. In the eyes of the court and law enforcement, the existence of a prior crime becomes evidence of a future crime. It is not the results that I object to, only the procedure.
Is the United States going to break up with Israel?

Chase Buzzell
3L Editor

The United States has a long and storied history with Israel. Mostly the relationship has been healthy and fruitful, but as with most relationships there have been instances of friction. Naturally, particular points of contention between the U.S. and Israel’s respective diplomacy paradigm can be traced to the U.S. president and his Administration. However, the view towards Israel is not cut clean between each President because previous agreements with Israel are adopted by the incoming president.

Most recently President Obama adopted an agreement with Israel where President Bush had agreed to the “steadfast commitment of the United States to Israel’s security...to preserve and strengthen Israel’s capability to deter and defend itself” and vows that the U.S. will “address the problem of the supply of arms and related materiel and weapons transfers and shipments to Hamas and other terrorist organizations in Gaza.”

Currently, the Obama Administration is faced with an ever-growing precarious situation where tensions are rising between Israel and Palestine because, in part, Israel is pursuing settlement construction more aggressively and controlling the passage of people and construction materials into the Gaza Strip.

State parks. This new fee would apply to about 28 million vehicles and most California vehicles would get free admission and parking at state parks and beaches. 85% of the money raised would be spent directly on maintaining state parks. The $130 million that California currently spends on State parks would go into the State’s general fund.

Prop 22 – The Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act would protect existing funds that are allocated to local government, public safety and transportation. The initiative would prohibit the state from using these funds and would make sure that local agencies are not sacrificed because of state budget shortfalls. Additionally, the State would not be able to take local revenues related to hotel, sales, utility taxes, local public transit and transportation funds.

It is possible that a close relationship with Israel will facilitate a closer relationship with the Muslim world. The closer the relationship with Israel the more likely the U.S. will participate in negotiations pertaining to the occupation of embattled territory. Moreover, if the U.S. can assist in a peaceful resolution between Israel and Palestine then a friendship is sustained and a healthy link with the Muslim World is established.

Where should our efforts and allegiance lie?
Is improving relationships with volatile and proven irrational actors worth the cost of losing an ally such as Israel?

Voting. Continued from pg. 1

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Prop 23 – This would suspend AB 32, the Global Warming Act of 2006. Stated to begin in 2012, AB 32 requires greenhouse gas emission levels in the State be cut to 1990 levels by 2020. This initiative would require the State to abandon the implementation of this greenhouse gas reduction program until California’s unemployment rate drops to 5.5% or below for four consecutive business quarters.

Prop 24 – The Repeal of Corporate Tax Breaks

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On November 2, 2010, 3L Editor wrote:

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Prop 24 – The Repeal of Corporate Tax Breaks would break several corporate tax breaks that are slated to go into effect in 2010 and 2012. This initiative would prevent corporations that are eligible for receiving about $1.3 billion in tax breaks a year. The corporate tax breaks include: allowing corporations to choose whether to have their income tax based on the proportion of their total sales occurring in California, or on a combination of their sales and their operations including payroll and property; allowing corporations that are experiencing losses in California’s current economy to get refunds for taxes paid within the previous two years; allowing corporations with more tax credits then they can use, to distribute the “leftover” tax credits to affiliates. California’s tax regulators estimate that about 120,000 businesses in the state would have higher taxes if this initiative is approved by voters.

Prop 25 – The Majority Vote for the Legislature to Pass the Budget Act would change the current State legislative vote requirement necessary to pass the State budget and spending bills from two-thirds to a simple majority. This initiative also requires State Legislators to forfeit any reimbursement for salary and expenses for every day until the Legislature passes a budget bill.

Prop D – The City of San Diego Sales Tax and Finance Reform Package will increase the sales tax paid on the purchase of goods and services within the city by half a cent. This tax raise is slated to last for five years and would increase San Diego’s tax revenue by $103 million a year. However, this tax increase is conditional on a package of 10 fiscal reform measures that the City must enact that mainly deal with re-organizing pensions, unions, health care costs, public operations, etc.

Voter Information

Early voting is available at the Register of Voters’ office beginning October 5, 2010, Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Early Weekend Voting: Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010 at the Registrar of Voters, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010 Polling Times: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

More information is available at: www.sdvote.com
Champions, three years in the making

Don’t Be “That Guy”
Gain practical experience while in law school - it’s essential.

Samantha Massau
2L Layout Designer

The words “internship” and “experience” are enough to make any of us anxious. The thought of networking, writing cover letters, and interviewing makes me tired. Gaining practical legal experience while in law school is time-consuming yet worthwhile and important.

I had the pleasure of working for a family law attorney this summer. Full-time, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The real world. I would sweat every time I turned in an assignment and overflow with joy when my folder was returned to me empty. This meant I had completed my assignment correctly and my writing wasn’t overly terrible. The other option would be a document with so much red pen on it I had a hard time deciphering all of the changes. It was a lot of hard work and at times an ego-deflator. But in the end I learned many important lessons; the biggest of which I write to share.

About a month into my internship I was to be court, filed motions, drafted motions, declarations, discovery demands and discovery responses. I was not trying to bug him (or remember the red pen). My attorney had an attorney meeting scheduled with a new attorney. This generated a lot of work recently passed the bar and started his own practice. I sat at my desk sifting through discovery responses and half-listened to their conversation. After a few minutes it became apparent he was trying to bug someone. I had been a client and was representing her later that week. My attorney was giving the new attorney pointers on listening further. I realized this new attorney had never been inside a courtroom! He did not even know courtrooms were public places that any person could enter and observe! I do not know “that guy’s” name, he attended law school or what his past legal history was. However, I only know him as “that guy,” a law school graduate, who had never been inside a courtroom. I was shocked this was possible. How does an aspiring lawyer go through four to three years of schooling, where he eats, breathes and sleeps the practice of law, and not have a clue about it? Does anyone retain a brand-new attorney who had never been inside a courtroom?

At the end of the trimester I wanted to write a short article encouraging my fellow Thomas Jefferson School of Law students to not be “that guy!” Take advantage of the many internships, externships, and volunteer opportunities Thomas Jefferson School of Law offers. Review the extern/judicial clerkship packets provided by the Externship Office; use Symplicity; meet with your career advisor; pay attention to opportunities advertised in The Advisor and the extern/judicial clerkship packets provided by the Externship Office; use Symplicity; meet with your career advisor; pay attention to opportunities advertised in The Advisor and the TJSL Seminoles,

Criminal Law Society Poker Tournament

The Third Annual Criminal Law Society Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament was a success!

Marly Stratte
2L President of the Criminal Law Society

There was definitely no shortage of good music, food, and conversation at the Third Annual Criminal Law Society Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament on October 9, 2010. With more than 30 Thomas Jefferson School of Law students and professors playing in the tournament and 50 guests in attendance, the Criminal Law Society raised over $350. All of the proceeds were donated to Father Joe's.

Father Joe's provides TJSL students with great opportunities to volunteer and give back to their community. The donation from the tournament highlights the growing relationship between Thomas Jefferson School of Law and Father Joe’s as we prepare for our move into the vibrant East Village in downtown San Diego.

SBA flag football comes to a close after a full day of playoffs.

Raj Matani
SBA Athletics Chair

Followed by a very biased note by Katie Tooma, Editor In Chief (and championship winner)

As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, it can only mean one thing, football! While many of us enjoy a cool beverage and watching our favorite college or pro team do battle every weekend, many of your fellow Thomas Jefferson School of Law colleagues took to the gridiron on Sunday afternoon. After three weeks of regular-season games, it all came down to a thrilling playoff day on Sunday October 10, 2010. Hoping to recover from the stress of midterms, our Top-10 teams took to a single elimination tournament to decide a champion.

The rounds went as close to planning as possible, with a majority of the higher-seeded teams winning. However, the highlight of the day heading into the championships was the quarterfinal game between Greyson Godoy’s third-seeded IRAC Rebels and Brandon Simon’s sixth-seeded Hootie & The Throwfish.

For these teams 40 minutes of smash-mouth football was not enough to decide a winner, and forced them to play overtime. This season, overtime was similar to the college format in which teams alternate possession. Here, each team would alternate possession one play at a time to see who would score first. After two overtime rounds, both teams had dug their heels in defensively, and did not allow a touchdown. Then, in the third overtime, Hootie & The Throwfish completed a touchdown pass, in the back of the end zone to one of their talented female teammates. The only way for the “IRAC Rebels” to respond was to catch a pass from the opposing team to match such a feat. Though well conceived, their pass was blocked at the line of scrimmage, giving Hootie & The Throwfish an amazing, emotional upset.

Cinderella’s carriage turned back into a pumpkin for the Throwfish, as they fell to the second-seeded Chuck’s All-Star in the semifinals.

The championship game placed two undefeated teams against one another. Donning red and yellow number one, were the smack-talkin’ and confident TJSL Seminoles led by Marcelous Glasper. Their opponent, the number two seeded surprise, Chuck’s All-Star, led by Captain Andrew McDaniel and the Student Bar Association’s very own Brian Hassing. The game was close throughout, as both teams fought until the end. The TJSL Seminoles prospered under the dynamic passing attack orchestrated by quarterback Jason Argos. Chuck’s All-Star stayed in the game with hustle, grit, and solid defense. However, in the end, the TJSL Seminoles proved to be too much.

Finals, three times in the making the TJSL Seminoles are officially the 2010 TJSL INTERRMURAL CHAMPIONS!!!

Thank you to all the teams who participated, and made this season a great success. The Student Bar Association appreciates everybody’s positive attitude and respect towards one another. We hope the sportmanship and fantastic competition displayed continues throughout the academic year.

The Winning team! Justin Duncan, Marcelous Glasper, Paul Young, Sterling Williams, Brett Goddard, Justin Clayton, Josh Campbell, Jason Argos, Stefanie Sciarani, Katie Tooma, Emma Goda, Rachel Lebrun and John Baez (not pictured).

Jason Argos, TJSL Seminoles Quarterback, throws a beautiful pass by a defender.

[Image 401x830 to 775x1091]

The Disclaimer – Biased Editors Note:

After coming together during our 1L year, the TJSL Seminoles, have finally won the flag football championship! In the past, we’ve been close and we’ve faced heartbreak, so this season we were out for blood. While other teams went out the night before a game and came the following morning “exhausted,” we were all well rested and prepared. It was obvious; we wanted it more than anybody.

And while we finally have the ability to wear our TJSL JM championship T-shirts weekly, as a reminder of our greatness, I’d like to say that this year featured some of the best talent I’ve ever seen in my three years. It made winning much more important and joyful. I’ll miss Sterling throwing himself on the ground in an attempt to block; Marcelous jumping six feet off of the ground; myself having to play quarterback for a crucial win; Stephanie ripping her shorts almost into a skirt and using medicine tape to fix them; Brett’s wife Emma filling in; Josh’s QB sacks; and FINALLY having girls play an important role in the sport. I loved getting double points for my team and watching girls play critical roles in our offense! For those of you who still have some time left at Thomas Jefferson - stick together and cultivate that talent! It may take three seasons, but I’ll fall into place. It may just be flag football, but I will miss playing with everyone and the feeling of winning it all. Don’t worry; we all graduating – except for Rachel. Someone good pick her up (but remind her to stretch and tape her ankle beforehand).

[Image 593x339 to 775x549]

Marcelous Glasper catches a touchdown pass in the final game of the 2010 season.

[Image 402x810]
How to Get Away Without Going Away

Some quick ideas for weekend getaways.

Rachel Lebron
1L Writer

With the stress of midterms in the past, why not reward yourself before finals with a little weekend getaway? One of the best parts of living in San Diego is that there are plenty of incredible places to visit just an hour or two away. Here is a list of some quick escapes:

Julian: Only about an hour away, Julian is a cute little town with a bunch of Mom-and-Pop shops and is perfect for a day trip. It’s a nice treat from the hustle and bustle of San Diego. You can find a soda fountain, candy store, and many other hidden gems to visit. It has become an annual event for many San Diegans to make the trip to Julian when it gets chilly outside because it is one of the only places in San Diego County where it snows. Julian’s claim to fame is its apples, so be sure to get an apple pie at the Julian Pie Company.

San Elijo State Beach: Before it gets too cold outside, get a campsite at San Elijo State Beach, located in North County. It’s camping San Diego style; the campground even offers Wi-Fi. Many people bring motor homes or camper vans, but there are also plenty of pitched tents along the campground. Your campsite is steps away from the beach, so bring your surfboard! If you don’t feel like making the effort with a camper or BBQ, hop into your car and drive a few minutes away for some good eats.

Casino: Southern California was once the home to many Native American tribes, and now we are the home to many Native American casinos. In San Diego County, we have Viejas in Alpine, Barona in Lakeside, and Sycuan in El Cajon. Just a little north of San Diego County is Pechanga, in Temecula. These casinos are mellow forms of Vegas, and since they are on federal ground, even our 20-year-old 1Ls can gamble. Each of the casinos has tremendous buffets and restaurants. Some of the casinos have venues for concerts, beyond the stages in the lounges. Pechanga is the only casino with a Vegas style nightclub, Club Silk. Viejas has a premium outlet center across the street from the casino, so go win some money for shopping!

Big Bear Resort: About 2 hours away in San Bernardino County, Big Bear is the San Diego go-to spot for snowboarding. It is close enough that you can day-trip it, but Bear also makes for a great weekend trip if you grab some friends and rent a cabin. Since SoCal snow isn’t usually an act of God, Bear makes sure to pump man-made snow all season long. For those of you lucky enough to have a birthday during the season, Big Bear will give you a free lift ticket on your birthday with your I.D. There are also discounted ticket offers for large groups.

Rosarito: If you decide to make a trip to Mexico, please proceed with caution, and stay away from Tijuana. Keep driving and head to Rosarito. You can rent a house in one of the gated American communities, such as Las Gaviotas, for very affordable prices. A four bedroom house can be rented for 3 nights by eight people for around $50 a person. Wake up to the sound of the ocean and hang out all day on a secluded beach, while having the comfort of your own food in the rented house. During the day, take a drive to Puerto Nuevo, a place known for its lobster. Stay in the tourist areas and with a group during the day, be back in the gated community at night, and Mexico will not be a scary trip. Just don’t forget your passport.

Gay Brothers and Sisters...You Must Come Out

Time to address the solution to the problem. Jenni Leys
3L Editor

Last month an article ran stating problems that may arise out of not sharing the lies and distortions. For your sake, all, break down the myths, destroy the lies and distortions. For your sake, everyone you know, and who know you. Are your friends...to your fellow workers...to the people who work where you eat and shop...come out only to the people you know, and who know you. Not to anyone else. But once and for all, break down the myths, destroy the lies and distortions. For your sake. For their sake. For the sake of the youngsters who are becoming scarred by the votes from Dade to Eugene.”

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Women, Equality, and the Military

A woman should be allowed to serve in any military specialty if she is physically, mentally and tactically capable of meeting the current standard.

Sarah Stewart-Bussey
2L Staff Writer

Women have made significant progress toward being accepted in various specialties throughout the military. Just this past year, female officers earned the opportunity to serve on submarines in the Navy. Females can fly combat aircraft in all branches and attend Survival Evasion Resistance Escape School (see 2LT Muchmore in picture). However, we are still excluded from most combat arms specialties and are denied the opportunity to attend many of military’s elite schools. In the Marine Corps, women cannot serve on tanks, in the infantry, or in either type of artillery. The Army excludes women from arms that require the intense physical strength to allow women to serve in a select few positions within artillery. All four branches exclude women from the Special Forces community.

Opponents to females serving in combat arms often cite that women are not as strong as men and women would disrupt unit cohesion in traditionally male units. Many of these opponents are not looking at women who are currently serving, but only at stereotypes of women as a whole. Women that join the military often possess a higher level of physical fitness than the average woman. But, you cannot compare a 150lb female’s strength to a 200lb man’s and say women are weak. If you compare a woman to a man of similar build, the likelihood they can physically compete is significantly higher. Furthermore, women in the military currently serve alongside men in most units throughout the services, and all of these branches are able to efficiently complete their missions. Taking a look back in history, every job in every branch of the military was an all-male unit before women were allowed to serve. A woman should be allowed to serve in any military specialty that she is capable of. Standards should absolutely not be compromised to include women. This would be a concession that we cannot serve equally alongside men. Further, the military’s role is protecting our nation against all enemies.

We shouldn’t compromise our war fighting capabilities and include those that cannot meet the standard. Standards are created for a reason. That is why these elite military schools exist—to weed out those who can’t hack it. But men fall out of these schools every day, and being a man does not automatically mean you will pass the course. So if a woman is physically, mentally, and tactically able to meet the standard for acceptance into training, there is no reason to exclude her from the chance to prove herself.

In training, we are lectured on the importance that we all carry the same pack and weapon, and that no woman should ask a man to help her carry her weight. We are all required to memorize battle drills and tactics out of the infantry rifle platoon and squad manual. All officer candidates, regardless of gender, are taught the same troop leading procedures. We get out into the big Army we are told we are not equal and we cannot lead a platoon of soldiers into combat, despite the countless hours we dedicated to learning this skill.

As for professional consequences, women are guaranteed a late start to the promotion race because we are not allowed to serve in combat commands. When I listed my job preferences prior to commissions, I chose to list field artillery as one of my top three fields. Field artillery is a combat arms branch in the U.S. Army that allows women to serve, but in a very limited capacity. In order to even list it on my preference sheet, I had to receive a briefing from my ROTC Professor of Military Science, and sign that I acknowledged all of the information in the packet. The brief essentially said that my job options within this branch are incredibly limited due to my gender. Further, I would likely promote slower than men in the same branch.

As the ‘Standardized Briefing for Women Considering Field Artillery’ states: The lack of a weapon system opportunity in the early years of an officer’s career may be a discriminator.

We shouldn’t deny exceptional female soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines the opportunity to serve in combat arms if they can meet the current qualifications. Although many of the elite military schools and jobs require a physical fitness standard that is difficult to achieve and require incredible mental toughness, there are women who are capable.

If a woman can meet the physical requirements to enter Ranger School, let her in. If she has the mental fortitude and tactical expertise, give her the opportunity to prove she is worthy. We are not asking for a helping hand to escort us through the door to equality. We are asking simply for the door to be open. Those that are capable will walk through it themselves.

Jury Duty: A Civic Obligation For All Americans

Why we need to honor our civil duty to serve as jurors.

Jonathan Cooper
3L Managing Editor

Paying taxes, registration for the Selective Service, and jury duty are the main obligations that the government imposes on its citizens. Relatively speaking, these are the things that we must do or we may be subject to fines and sanctions. In return for these obligations, we have a country with a strong military, freedoms to practice religion and speech in virtually any manner that does not endanger others, and, probably most importantly, the right to participate in governance either directly, by running for office, or indirectly, by voting for those to represent us.

All too often, individuals do not fulfill their civic obligations. This is why we have jury duty wherein 100 people may be called just to seat a panel of selected individuals with or without alternates. Now granted, some of these individuals are rightfully excused either with a “for cause” challenge or through utilizing a peremptory challenge, however the reaction of society called to serve as a juror has become appalling. The concept of a trial by jury has come a long way from the trial of ordeal by the Middle Ages. During the Middle Ages, in Europe, the poor or other “commoners” could find themselves subjected to the “Test of the Cold Water” in ascertaining truth. The wealthy did not fear this treatment for they typically weren’t subject to trial. During this time, the method of testing guilt or innocence therein involved binding the accused in some manner: with rope for example, and tossing them into a deep river or lake. If the body floated, the person was considered guilty. If the person sank, they were considered innocent; however, the now vindicated often drowned.

Another type of ordeal employed during this time was to subject each individual to hold a glowing hot iron or reaching into boiling water to retrieve a stone. The hands of the accused would be bandaged and then examined three days later. If the wounds became infected, not an uncommon occurrence in the Middle Ages, the accused were deemed guilty.

A system of determining guilt based on whether the water rejected or accepted a body or whether a person got proper medical attention following a trauma seems outrageous when compared to the trial by jury that we enjoy today. The Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees our right to a trial by jury. For this system to work, we must be active participants in the system. But it is all too often that we find that the pool of possible jurors has been tainted.

Being a juror is stressful – on the other hand, that’s part of life and this is one of the obligations of citizenship in this great nation. All too often a juror receives their summons to appear on behalf of the state and their initial thought is “How do I get out of this?” Is work related? Is it financial hardship? Is it travel? The excuses range on. Thus our jurors are composed of a self-selecting group of individuals whom cannot possibly reflect an accurate cross section or the morals of our society. As such, how is it that we can parade an accused around and say they’ve received a fair trial in the face of blatant disrespect for the system?

Lately, we are seeing jurors posting messages or status updates to Facebook or asking to be excused from the proceedings of trial. As an intern I have the advantage of coming and going from trial during the star witness testimony and cross examinations and excusing myself to complete tasks during expert testimony and the such, whereas a juror does not have this advantage. However, we all serve our functions in the wheel and without all integral parts our system can not accurately or correctly turn.

Jury duty is just that, a duty and an obligation, not an excuse to miss work, or a theatre to express ourselves in an attempt to be excused from. Anyone in the place of a defendant can attest to the importance of an accurate reflection of society, and these values and obligations must be upheld and enforced.

If they are not, then criminal contempt as designed for punishment and civil contempt as designed to motivate someone to abide by a court order, will serve little function.
Dear Scott,

I'd like to go to some of the SBA bar reviews with all my friends but I'm afraid I'll get too drunk and embarrass myself. Is there anything I should know?

Dear Potentially Embarrassed,

While it is popularly believed that getting too drunk is a pursuit that needs to be abandoned once undergrad is over, this is simply not the case. Getting too drunk still has the same bragging rights it used to. In fact, I respect people more if they can drink large amounts of alcohol at a bar review. Don't think of yourself as embarrassing if you, as a law student, get too drunk at a bar. Consider yourself the life of the party. Come Monday, people won't be talking about how much of a mess you were last Friday, they will be talking about how awesome you were.

Please consider not wearing your Thomas Jefferson T-shirt to the bar though. While your school-wide street-cred undoubtedly increases with each consumed beverage, there is a real chance of damaging the school's reputation in the general community. In fact, if you can get a hold of clothing from the other SD law schools, don't hesitate to throw them on before you head out to the bars. This advice pertains not just to bar reviews but is generally useful for any drinking venture.

The upcoming SBA Halloween Party is a wonderful opportunity to flex your consumptive muscle. If you anticipate a heavy drinking night consider wearing a costume that completely hides your identity; just because you're wearing those cat ears and painted on whiskers doesn't mean we don't know who you are. And if you happen to see me out at the Halloween Party or a Bar review, feel free to send a drink my way for all of this incredibly useful advice.

Cheers and You're Welcome,
Scott

Dear Scott,

I have some questions about student loans. I'm not sure how much to take out, and what to do with the money once I have it. Any advice would be appreciated.

Dear Financially Confused,

This is a very good question and literally hundreds of students have asked me to address this topic. Most students struggle with this as each semester rolls around. Some people are concerned they aren't taking enough (what if some unexpected expense arises?). Some are concerned they may be borrowing too much. If you are in the latter camp, you've made the right decision. There's nothing worse than being stuck midway though the semester without any money just because your computer crashed or you've developed a taste for single malts.

The financial aid office is going to tell you to “take only the minimum amount of money you will need for the semester.” The problem is that even with a budget, it is impossible to predict the future and determine how much you will actually need. Their estimated budget includes such outdated concepts as “transportation,” and “housing,” but doesn't provide for modern necessities like shoes, cover charges, and bottle service. Invest...in Pot. Consider this: 1) Marijuana prices have long been higher than the price of gold—and are not likely to fluctuate with the market. 2) No one has ever called me up on a Friday night and asked if I knew where they could get any gold. Double or triple your loan money and pay off that unsubsidized interest.

One word: gambling. Online gambling is simple and easy. You can set up an account and start playing blackjack in under 5 minutes. Don't like blackjack? Any game you can play in real life you can play online. The upside here is that you never have to leave the library or your bedroom. Or try real gambling. Go to a casino or find a bookie to help you start making money. Many people think that gambling is equivalent to throwing money away but that's not true if you play roulette. No one ever loses at that game—which makes it the perfect way for you to increase that max loan you borrowed.

You're welcome,
Scott

You're Welcome
Practical advice for law school and beyond
Scott Greenwood | 2L Editor

WE ARE RENAMING THE INFORMER!!
We want YOU to help rename the Thomas Jefferson School of Law's only student run newspaper.

Last edition, students submitted their name ideas to newspaper staff and here are the top five names:

1) The Jeffersonian
2) The Monticello
3) The §
4) The Thomas Jefferson Papers
4) The Missive

Log onto the SBA TWEN page to vote by November 6, 2010!
America's Secret Standard for Death

Terrorism and the American Citizen: what happens when they are one and the same.

Yako Artinian
2L Staff Writer

Anwar Al-Awlaki is an Islamic lecturer, spiritual leader, former imam currently hiding in Yemen, and is possibly the first ever U.S. citizen targeted for death by his own government in matters relating to international terrorism. He is suspected of various terrorist activities against the West such as recruiting individuals into Al-Qaeda's terrorist network, holding sermons that some 9/11 hijackers attended, and even corresponding via e-mail with the Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan. The U.S. government's spiritual guidance and assurances of peace in the afterlife from Al-Awlaki. For years he was on the CIA's target list, but last month the U.S. Department of Treasury put Al-Awlaki onto its “global terrorist” list even though he is an American-born citizen, educated right here in San Diego at San Diego State University.

His father, a university professor in the U.S. and former foreign minister of Yemen, has tried time and time again to get the government to do something in behalf of his son who is hiding in Yemen, since being put on this global terrorist list. The lawsuit, brought by his father, challenged the Obama Administration's methods of acting as prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner when placing individuals on its “hit list,” asks the Court to allow a U.S. citizen facing criminal charges subject to a death warrant to appeal their case before any constitutional rights are violated.

The suit has become deadlocked after the Obama Administration has made real efforts to dismiss the case based on a “State Secret Privilege.”

The lawsuit, filed by the Treasury Department’s actions fit in. Upon being placed on the Treasury Department “global terrorist” list, any assets belonging to the individual can be frozen and it becomes illegal for any attorney to be retained by the individual without first applying for a special license from the government.

Al-Awlaki’s father retained the ACLU and Center for Constitutional Rights to spearhead the lawsuit against the government, but all efforts have come to a stop since Al-Awlaki was put on the Treasury’s list. This arbitrary use of power only compounds with the Obama Administration’s policy of seeking and assassinating individuals without explaining itself in any way. The ACLU and CCR argue that they should be allowed to explain what they are doing on this matter, thus not receiving any payment from “frozen” assets, which means that the Treasury Department’s move is illegal, unconstitutional and meant to stop this specific action from seeing the light of litigation.

The government’s position on the matter is that it does not want to disseminate sensitive information into the public, which would likely reach the eyes and ears of the very terrorist organizations it is seeking to neutralize. There are strong arguments for both sides, and the situation is not an easy one for the U.S. public to take such a side. For one hand you have a citizen’s constitutional rights being openly suppressed by the government, and on the other hand you have a government basking in its actions on the U.S. Constitution. And the American people need protection from individuals who are bent on terrorizing and harming innocent lives.

To gain some perspective, it may be wise to think back to the position the United States took at the end of the Second World War. Europe was in total ruins, and the Allied forces had barely overcome Nazi Germany and its allies. Great Britain and the Soviet Union suggested executing Nazi leaders and top ranking German and Japanese officers for their war crimes and crimes against humanity. However the U.S. stood firmly against such harsh treatment and joined in on preserving the rights of these individuals. The U.S. government demanded fair trials before administering any type of punishment and made sure that their rights were respected and allowed representation. This ultimately gave birth to the famous Nuremberg trials, which created an internationally acceptable standard employed, even to this day by Courts around the world.

This standard is that the government must adhere to the same laws and requirements that any individual must adhere to when seeking a resolution or remedy against another. Where is this standard for Al-Awlaki?"
A British man was arrested for buying a goldfish in a pet store and then swallowing it in front of the staff while his friend videotaped it. After they posted the video on Facebook the police took notice and arrested the man who ate the fish. He was released an hour after his arrest on suspicion of cruelty to animals but if convicted of animal cruelty he will face six months in jail or a fine of $33,000.

A Paris man who registered 55 children by different mothers faces up to 10 years in jail and fines for suspected paternity fraud and for helping to obtain residency for the mothers and children under false pretenses. Police suspect the man was involved in a social benefits scam which could have been costing the state over 1 million Euros (about $1.27 million) annually, which could have been costing the state over 1 million Euros (about $1.27 million) annually, but at the moment 42 of the women have been identified and each claim that the man is actually the biological father of their child.

Many callers are angry after a recent typo in the lab that don’t increase and still having crappy computers in the lab that don’t work half the time.

In Oregon the alleged bank robber, dubbed the “Where’s Waldo Bandit” because he wore a striped shirt and glasses resembling the character, has been arrested after he apparently claimed responsibility for the crime on Facebook news and even posted the bank’s surveillance shot as his profile picture. A 19 year old man, who police in British Columbia described as “sobriety deprived”, is being charged with a variety of offenses after he climbed over a fence with barbed wire and found himself on the tarmac of an airport.

Weird Legal News

An update on some of the crazy legal related issues around the world.

Compiled by Brandi Haefs
3L Senior Staff Writer

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