

Professor Robert Delahunty

A Quick Ten Questions

After 12 years in England, why return to the United States to attend Harvard Law School?

I had started out with the expectation that after two years in England I would go to law school. I loved England and one thing led to another and I started doing my research and teaching. After 12 years I had to decide to stay there the rest of my life or come home.

For a number of reasons it made sense to pick up the thread and do what I planned to when I first went to England.

What topics or issues in law are you most interested in at the moment?

I wrote four articles over the summer. One is about the intersection of human rights law and law of war.

I co-authored it with John Yoo – my frequent co-author. It will be published in a book. Yoo called me and said he had been asked to write about this topic for a book and he wasn't really excited about it and asked me what I thought about the topic. I said we have to do this – it is an important topic and we need to learn the subject and write about it.

So this summer I was reading up on the subject, studying it, mastering it. A longer version of what is in the book is being circulated to different publications.

I wrote a piece on Kosovo which arose out of a class I gave with my colleague and friend Tony Perez, who teaches in Washington DC. I thought, "Why don't we do a paper?" I thought it would be short. It's 90 pages now and it could easily become an entire book.

What are you currently working on?

A general subject that interests me is the law of war and peace, the causes of war and peace.

What if you were not a professor of law?

I would probably still be in the government. This was the only law school I applied to – this is where I wanted to teach, really. If I weren't at St. Thomas, I would be in Washington right now. I enjoyed my jobs there very much.

Do you like teaching?

I do like teaching. I find it draining, but I love it. I just reached the point in my life where I thought I had to give back. I wasn't able to do that in the government. There, I wasn't in a place where I could teach other people what I knew or stimulate them to exercise their own minds and teaching lets you do that.

I'm a much better teacher now than I was in England. Too often instructors are concerned with their career and research and publications

and students are distractions to them.

I'm too old to care about my career. And I will publish either way because I write and I love to write.

St. Thomas demands scholarship from its faculty but it's also a teaching school, which is a policy I strongly support. I don't think we should ever regard our students as anything other than companions on a search for truth.

Teaching is especially important to me and something I value deeply. There is an interaction and there is a lot of fun in it.

What is the most important lesson you have learned thus far in your legal career?

Humility, in a word. Or discretion.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

I don't think any of us will ever know. There might be some remark you make in a class or in a conversation with a friend or family member and you don't think about it ever again but it has lasting effect on a soul throughout eternity. Without meaning it or wanting it you might have been an occasion of grace to somebody.

You just don't know what your greatest achievement is because you don't see the whole picture. I don't think this side of eternity I will ever know.

What about a fond memory?

What I look back on with greatest pleasure is being elected Vice President of my high school class. It was a tough campaign and it was a dirty campaign. But I formed strong coalitions and I won – unexpectedly! I loved being high school Vice President. We got red jackets and special treatment.

Do you have any regrets?

I'm sure I do but I've had an amazingly interesting and satisfying life. I've done an awful lot of things that it would not have seemed, at the moment of my birth, I would ever have done. I've met wonderful people, I've lived for 12 years in England. I've been to Harvard. I've been here. I was in Washington



in the inner-workings of the government at a very high level.

It would have been nice to be Attorney General, instead of an advisor to the Attorney General, but I can't really regret that. Bill Clinton was my classmate in England and he became President. I did not. I can't regret not being President.

It would be wrong of me to have regrets given the kind of life I've had, given the things I've done, the people I've met, and the love that's been shown to me by others.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

Temperamentally I am conservative but I think I have this image of being an extreme right-winger and solidly with the Administration, as someone who worked for a Republican President. Well, I worked for Bill Clinton for eight years too. On many issues, war, peace, social justice, economic changes, my views are much more left than right and that is not the image I have.

Meet Alanna Moravetz: CPD Director and Life Coach



Tell us about yourself.

My career has followed a very nontraditional path. I went to law school after having taught English for several years. I graduated from William Mitchell and practiced as a solo practitioner for a short time as well as a staff attorney at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

I spent most of my career at the Minnesota Supreme Court where I was the Director of Judicial Education. I was responsible for creating courses for judges similar to CLE's that attorneys are required to complete. After nearly 14 years in that position, I left there to become a professional coach. I was certified as a leadership coach at the Hudson Institute of Santa Barbara.

What are you most looking forward to during your first full year as Career and Professional Development Director?

I am excited to be at UST School of Law because of the mission and the students. I am looking forward to meeting the students and working with them in this process of discerning how they will use their law degrees to shape their careers. I am passionate about working with students both traditional and nontraditional and fascinated by how humans experience change throughout their lives.

What advice would you give to the 1Ls as they start their law school career?

My approach to career coaching has taught me that it is a lifelong process that we undertake and that a law degree is the tool that helps us determine how we will match our values, skills, and abilities with the work that we do every day. I hope that the message students take from my work at CPD is that this is a lifelong process and that getting the first job out of law school is the beginning of that process of continuously shaping and reshaping their careers to match their values, abilities, and beliefs.

When you're not fulfilling your role as CPD director, what do you do in your spare time?

I have my own consulting and coaching business and work with professionals including attorneys, judges, accountants, engineers and doctors who are in transitions in their careers. I also love to teach and am an adjunct here at the School of Law in the Mentor Externship program as well as in the Masters Program at the Engineering School where I teach a leadership course.

I love to travel, I love movies, plays, and art museums, I am married and my husband and I have two young adult sons. I have two Wheaton Terriers named Murphy and Reggie, and I want to live in France someday and learn to speak French.

SGA's "Return to Service" Starts with Road Trip to Iowa

Joanna Salmen

The student government kicked off its theme of "A Return to Service," by taking a road trip. Student body president Erin Lord and vice president Caitlin Roth, along with about 40 other UST law students, carpooled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa on September 5, 2008, to aid in flood disaster relief.

Working with the non-profit organization Hands On Disaster Relief, the group helped clean houses, and in some cases gut houses, damaged by the flooding that took place earlier this year.

"We were armed with lots of bleach and cleaning supplies," said Roth.

UST participants got a glimpse of how the devastation affected the flood victims, spending their days participating in clean-up efforts and their nights in sleeping bags at a church with meals provided by the Salvation Army.

Many Cedar Rapids residents have been confined to living in only certain parts of their homes or are displaced entirely and staying with friends and family until their houses are once again safe.

"We wanted this to be get-your-hands-dirty service, different from the usual legal service that students participate in," said Lord.

The mission trip was the first of what Lord and Roth hope to be monthly service events (not all events will be out of town) sponsored by student government as a part of its "A Return to Service" theme.

"These projects are a way for new students to get involved and get to know people while completing public service hours," said Lord. "Plus, who doesn't love the occasional road trip?"