

SCHOOL OF LAW NEWS

UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

February 2009



"Remember no matter where you go, there you are." - Buckaroo Banzai

Students asking what stormy economy will mean for them

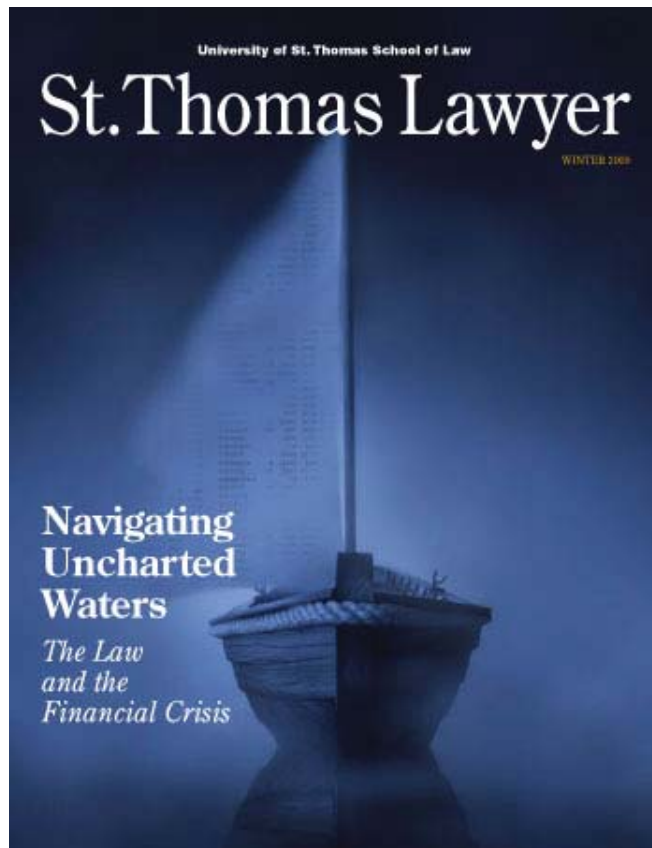
by Kellie Bigham

Bankruptcies and layoffs and closures! OH, MY. A law student cannot even escape reality by going on Perez Hilton's celebrity gossip blog anymore without seeing daily updates on the failing economy and gloomy job market. Currently, our country faces what economists are calling the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, and no job seems safe.

This means that the task of finding employment during and after law school, once deemed difficult, may now be downright agonizing. However, this does not mean that St. Thomas law students must face the task without help or without success. The Office of Career & Professional Development has made a full commitment to assist students in the job search process. But first, the bad news.

"It is a difficult time to find work for graduating law students," said Dave Bateson, director of the UST Mentor Program. "So far Minnesota firms are not downsizing but many are in a holding pattern. They are focusing on keeping their current attorneys busy and productive and are not looking to add new lawyers," he said.

Leonard, Street and Deinard recruiting manager Kari Jensen Thomas reported that as of January, the firm's law student and lawyer recruitment strategies had not changed



The latest edition of the Alumni Magazine tackled the financial crisis. Current students are asking themselves similar questions.

dramatically. Jensen Thomas said that the firm's 2009 summer class is the same size that it has been in the past and that the firm had made recent hires of lateral attorneys. "However, we are being very strategic with regard to our future lateral hiring efforts and could see the 2010 summer associate class size decrease slightly," she said. "It seems like most large law firms in Minnesota are experiencing the same."

Bateson also commented on lateral hiring, saying that because of the increasing costs of training new lawyers, smaller firms especially are

"looking for lawyers with 1-2 years experience to shorten the learning curve and hasten profitability." He said, "the irony, of course, is that if everyone is looking for those lawyers then no one is giving the new lawyers the chance to get the experience fresh out of school."

So what can law students do to increase the likelihood of finding a job while staying moderately sane during the process?

First, get help. "As future attorneys, we might have the desire to battle this on our own, but it is okay and encouraged to ask for help," said Alanna Moravetz, director of Career and Professional Development. "A one-on-one meeting with the CPD is very important, especially for 2Ls and 3Ls," Moravetz said. The CPD staff offers personalized advice about the job search process, review and critique of application materials, and general support in a student's next career steps.

"Having some kind of concrete plan is very helpful," she said. "We are here to meet with you as much and as often as you need. And we don't candy-coat."

Moravetz emphasized that the CPD is not just there to help students in finding their first careers out of law school, but to help students obtain the lifelong skills for job changes and success. "These are skills you can use for a long time after law school. It is a lifelong process of knowing how to put a plan together to find a job and make strategic plans," she said.

In late January, the CPD co-hosted a luncheon with Dean Mengler where

new job search services for 3Ls were announced. These currently forming services include Job Search Work Groups and Coaching Circles. The Job Search Work Groups will allow students to work collaboratively and support one another in the job search process. The groups would be task focused on securing a post-graduate job. The Coaching Circles will be aimed at students and alumni that wish to learn about managing change and transition and to address the question: “What is my next step?” The CPD asks 3Ls that are interested in being a part of either of these groups to email lawcareers@stthomas.edu and indicate which group is of interest.

The second strategy law students can use to achieve success is networking. (Duh, we have heard this word repeated second only to “reasonableness” during our law school existence.) “I think networking is the most important tool a law student has to find a job,” Bateson said. “Obviously, the more lawyers you know the more likely you are to hear of job openings, some of which may never be posted at CPD or in Minnesota Lawyer.” But Bateson said the benefits of networking reach much deeper than hearing of jobs. The attorneys you get to know through networking can be references for you and can help convince people to “bend the requirements” for you on a job, he said. “By networking, you get a chance to show people that what you learned in mentor externship, clinic, or your clerkship is worth the 1-2 years of experience the employer originally wanted.”

Networking is a chance to “demonstrate interpersonal and relationship skills that indicate you could generate business long term,” which is essentially what many private firms look for in a new hire. It also allows you to be more than just paper and to show people who you are before they even interview you, Bateson said.

Moravetz suggested several ways of forming a network of relationships in the legal community. First, “[w]e have

a small, but really committed group of alumni that is more than willing to help students,” she said. Next, joining groups like the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA), or Minnesota Women Lawyers (MWL), can also be very helpful for networking, and have lower membership fees for students. Finally, “keep volunteering with any extra time you have. This helps to form relationships and keep relationships growing,” she added. “Just keep expanding your network,” Moravetz said.

Jensen Thomas also emphasized the importance of networking stating that “[n]etworking and conducting informational interviews will be very important as firms will not post as many open positions.”

Being creative and flexible is the third thing law students can do to improve their chances of getting hired.

“The more creative, resilient, and flexible you can be, the easier it will be to obtain a job,” Moravetz said. The CDC recommends that students think about areas of law that they weren’t necessarily interested in before, and other geographic areas that they may not have originally been open to. “Some folks may need to start out at a small firm just to get some experience [before being hired at a larger firm],” Moravetz said. “We help students by pushing them to look at things from another perspective.”

Creativity is something that firms look for as well. “Law students must be even more creative in their job search strategies when jobs are scarce. The student who can demonstrate success in law school and a commitment to the practice of law will have a better chance at landing an interview,” Jensen Thomas said.

Finally, law students should attempt to stay positive. The CDC urges students to stay away from the “downward spiral” conversations with fellow students about the poor job market, which can be draining, depressing, and provide little guidance. “It is more important to come in and talk about how you can develop a real

strategic job search plan,” Moravetz said. “When we are around positivity, we pick it up, so find a positive friend.” Professional help is also available through the school if depression ensues and the job search and/or law school itself becomes too overwhelming. “We can help the people who see no end in sight,” Moravetz said.

Bateson said that being positive can also increase the likelihood of being hired because most employers want to be around people “who always seem up and optimistic” as opposed to people “who are always down and complaining.”

Quoting one of Bateson’s own personal mentors, he said: “Our intellect is only part of the equation. Your attitude is a bigger part.”

“We all work very hard in this profession and often we work long. We want to work with people whose company we enjoy. Your ability to stay positive in this type of challenging environment says volumes about the attitude you will have in practice.”

Bateson added, “As Randy Pausch wrote in *The Last Lecture*, ‘The brick walls are there to stop the people who don’t want it badly enough. They are there to stop the other people.’”

To end on a (somewhat) positive note, the CPD reported that there is usually more legal work in an economic downturn.

“For example, there are many more bankruptcies and more housing legal issues,” Moravetz said.

“Traditionally, business goes up in a down economy; bankruptcy, mortgages, health care, and energy are all areas that are currently growing. It is also too early to tell exactly how industries will be impacted from the downturn. Not all areas of law are experiencing drought, certain practice areas will be stronger,” she said.

Jensen Thomas agreed: “The bankruptcy and finance practice groups are very busy, and litigation always seems to pick up when there is a downturn in the economy.”

Title 11 and mergers and acquisitions, here we come?

Experts on ethical leadership to speak about restoring the public trust

By Joanna Salmen

Some of the nation's leading experts on ethical leadership will be speaking at the School of Law in March, courtesy of the Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership.

On March 6, David Maister, the leading authority on professional management of professional service firms and developing client relationships, will be at the law school for Holloran Center event "Transactions or Relationships? Interactions Between Clients, Associates and Staff." Since relationship skills are the central theme of the Mentor Externship program, Maister's name may sound familiar to students as some of his writings are in the materials for the Mentor Externship class.

"This is a good chance for students to invite mentors to hear a speaker who will interest mentors," said Neil Hamilton, professor of law and director of the Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership. Hamilton also explained why Maister's work is especially relevant for students during the economic crisis. "I hear from practicing lawyers in town that our students understand how important relationships are in the practice of law, and this is a great advantage for our students in this current market."

Maister will be joined by a panel including Sam Kaplan, Laura Witte and John Koneck, whom will give a variety of perspectives from both small and large firms as well as in-house perspectives on Maister's themes.

For the March 19 event, Hamilton said the Holloran Center put together a group of experts who will assess what we can learn from the current financial sector catastrophe, particularly with respect to failures of both corporate governance in the financial sector and society's acculturation of business leaders and how to move forward to

restore the public trust. "Our National Challenge: A Blueprint for Restoring the Public Trust," will feature an impressive array of leading scholars. The speakers have never appeared together before and are gathering exclusively at the St. Thomas School of Law providing UST student's a great opportunity to hear from some of the most well-known scholars and leaders in this area.

Columbia law professor John Coffee will be speaking at the event as one of the preeminent corporate and securities law experts in the country. He testifies frequently before Congress.

Joining him will be Harvard Business School professor Rakesh Khurana. Khurana is a very creative newer scholar pointing out the failure of the graduate business schools to acculturate business students into an ethical professional identity.

Hamilton is looking forward to hearing Khurana speak. "This is certainly a contributing cause of the current catastrophe, and changing graduate business education is one solution going forward."

Chancellor William Chandler Jr. will also be in attendance. As Chief Judge of the Delaware Court of Chancery (the nation's principal corporate law court), he is one of the most distinguished jurists on corporate law.

A late addition to the list of speakers is Lizanne Thomas. She is partner in charge of Jones Day's Atlanta office and heads Jones Day's Global Corporate Governance Team. She advises boards of

directors on corporate governance and director liability issues and lectures internationally on corporate governance and director liability.

Finally, UST's own Lyman Johnson, professor of law, will speak at the event. Johnson is a leading scholar in corporate law and corporate



governance, but particularly in how faith and moral principle should play a role in shaping ethical decision making in corporate governance.

Hamilton expressed the immense value students attending the event can gain. "We all hope this catastrophe is a once in lifetime experience for students. I urge students to learn all they can about the causes and solutions for this catastrophe," said Hamilton. "This will give them stories and lessons to share with clients and to guide students' own lives for the rest of the students' careers."

Q & A:

Professor Wiebe

By Joanna Salmen

How did you get to St. Thomas? What about it appealed to you?

I was just getting into teaching and was on what we call in the profession the “meat market” - a mammoth hiring conference in Washington DC held every year. I was a visiting professor at the University of Maryland at the time, and St. Thomas was brand new. Father Reggie was on the hiring committee - so I have a bit of a taste of what its like to be questioned under pressure by one of the masters.

While it’s trite to say the mission appealed to me, it did. Even while teaching at a state univeristy, I’ve never been bashful about the fact that faith has inspired me into learning and practising the law. UST explicitly put that on the table. I also had the opportunity to participate in creating an entirely new clinical program from scratch. That was really exciting - and we’re constantly recreating as we go along. Working with the colleagues I have in the Interprofessional Center keeps me inspired.

What do you like about teaching law students? Dislike?

UST students come with great passion, a desire to make the world a better place, and a real interest in the practical as well as the ethereal. What’s there to dislike?

What did you do during your sabbatical?

Besides sampling good wine and cheese and fresh produce and bread and sausage from the wonderful weekly market just outside our door in a little French village, I had a visiting fellow position at the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). I officed in the massive Palais des Nations in Geneva, which was originally built to house the League of Nations. I served on the UNIDIR delegation at an international treaty conference on cluster munitions, blogged about the process, and did some of my own research on the role of religious non-governmental organizations in the formation of international law.

Can you tell us about your work with cluster bombs and how you became associated with that cause?

For over 15 years, I’ve been part of an effort to ban cluster munitions. Cluster munitions are small bomblets that are scattered over a very large

area. Many of them don’t explode on contact, creating de facto mine fields. I got involved in the effort while in law school. My pastor in New York City was also the Mennonite representative at the UN, and I was invited to serve as the alternate delegate while still in school. One thing led to another, and I began representing the Mennonites at international treaty conferences on landmines and cluster bombs - the journey has taken me to over the years to places like Vienna, Geneva, New York, Rome, Washington, DC, Ottawa, Beirut, Dublin, and Mankato!

If you were not a law professor or in the legal field what would you be doing?

I would probably be working for a human rights organization in the area of arms control or immigration. There was one afternoon earlier in the decade when the choice was starkly put to me between teaching and working for a well known human rights group. I chose teaching and have not regretted it.

What is your greatest achievement thus far?

Being found by a wonderful spouse, with whom I’ve had two wonderful children. Teaching my cousin with Down’s Syndrome to ride a two wheeled bike.

Do you have any regrets?

Like any good Mennonite (and maybe Catholic?), if I’m not feeling guilty about something, I’m genetically compelled to look for something about which to be worried.

Is there anything people might be surprised to know about you?

I get a kick out of stained glass windows. Go figure.

If not yourself, who would you like to be?

Jerry Organ. (A hero of mine is MLK, Jr., but aspiring to be Jerry is hard enough as it is).





Alumni Spotlight

Andrea Specht
Class of 2006

Current Place of Employment:
 Dorsey & Whitney LLP

What is your area of practice at Dorsey & Whitney, and did you always see yourself in this area?

I'm in the public finance group. Most of our work comprises advising local government units of all kinds with the issuance of municipal bonds. It's a practice that weaves together tax, securities, and state law, among other things. When I started law school, I didn't know whether I wanted to practice law at all, much less practice in the really obscure area of public finance. My first exposure to the practice was when I entered Dorsey's summer associate program.

What is the best part of your career?

Good days bring a fair amount of intellectual challenge, which is probably my favorite part. I also like knowing that my work helps local governments provide important public infrastructure and services.

What was your first year of teaching like as an adjunct Lawyering Skills III professor?

It has been tremendously humbling and challenging. I'm fairly sure I learned as much as (if not more than) the students in my class. I was

fortunate to have a group of really nice, engaged students.

The whole experience has given me a new appreciation for the professors I've learned from throughout college and law school. For one thing, being prepared for class and grading students' work takes a lot more work than is probably apparent to most students.

Why did you decide to go into teaching law rather than just practicing law?

I've always had an interest in teaching. When I was in college, I obtained a license to teach art in grades K-12. For a variety of reasons, I never ended up putting that license to work. But my career between college and law school involved some teaching of adult volunteers in

an informal setting, and I also had the chance to volunteer as an adult literacy tutor myself. Having really enjoyed all of these experiences, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to bring together law and teaching.

I should add that I also like a lot of variety in my life and schedule. Teaching while practicing was hectic, but it gave me a chance to use different parts of my brain and work in different contexts with different groups of people.

What is one thing you wish you had known about the legal profession as a law student?

One of the things that has really struck me as a practitioner in a highly technical area is how long it takes to even begin to feel like you know what you're doing. I've been working in public finance for about 18 months now, and I often still feel pretty incompetent. It can be hard to remain patient with myself and the requisite learning curve in this work. This is probably a more significant challenge for "nontraditional" (i.e., old) students like me, who came to law school from established careers in which we did feel competent. On the positive side, it is the learning curve and the intellectual challenge that makes the work interesting.

Is there anything that you feel especially helped you in obtaining your career?

The two things that were most helpful to me were (1) keeping an open mind about the kinds of jobs I was willing to explore and not burdening myself with the idea of one "ideal" position and (2) doing my very best work—always.

Is there anything that you recommend law students do prior to, or during their job search?

Seek as many opportunities as you can to meet and interact with lawyers in a variety of contexts. It's a cliché that networking is key, and I appreciate that networking can be difficult for all but the most

extroverted. Nonetheless, it's probably the single most important thing you can do—aside from doing your best work academically—in the service of getting a job. And once you've built a network, make sure to keep cultivating and expanding it even after you've secured a position. You never know how or when you will need to draw on it. Another unoriginal but important strategy is to volunteer or intern in settings that are likely to expose you to the kinds of experiences and people you enjoy.

What role has networking played in your legal career thus far?

My law-related network is still in its infancy, so I can speak a little better to the nonprofit-related network I built during my pre-law school career. Even though I no longer work in the nonprofit sector, that network has helped me connect with some challenging and rewarding community service activities, including the two

boards of directors on which I serve. It has also helped me find employment for friends. Finally, it has allowed me to remain informed about needs and issues in our community that I wouldn't be exposed to through news media alone.

Good or bad, what is the most memorable aspect of your law school experience?

Lots of things stand out, but one thing that happened to me in law school and no other environment I can recall was being tired all the time. Judging from how often I fell asleep while reading at night and how late I could sleep on weekends in law school, I was a lot more tired than in college or at any time during my working life—including the job I'm in now. In retrospect, I think that came from being exposed constantly to so much information. It's a lot to absorb and process.

Do you have any law-related mottos or words of wisdom?

I can't tell you how the following quote relates to my life or work at the moment, but I've carried it in my wallet since sometime in law school. Amazingly enough in light of current events, it was written in 1905 by Louis Brandeis – about a decade before he became a Supreme Court justice.

“Instead of holding a position of independence, between the wealth and the people, prepared to curb the excesses of either, able lawyers have, to a great extent, allowed themselves to become adjuncts of great corporations and have neglected their obligations to use their powers for the protection of the people. We hear much of the corporate lawyer and far too little of the ‘people’s lawyer.’”

The Man Behind the Mystery: Henry Bishop



Henry Bishop. We've all seen his name come up in e-mails and for a period during my 1L year, I was fairly certain that he ran the lives of all of my professors, but few of us have had the opportunity to get to know the man

behind the legend. Luckily, once he found out that he had been chosen as the featured staff member of this edition of the School of Law News, he was more than willing to sit down and share more about himself.

Originally from Wisconsin, Henry has been working at UST Law for almost four years. He appreciates the sense of community he has been able to be a part of here, most particularly for the encouragement to get involved in local

volunteering, like Project Homeless Connect and the AIDS Walk.

Henry is also a member of a band called Tough Tough Skin, for which he does vocals and drums. For the past few years, they have played all over the city at places including 7th Street Entry, the Hexagon, Triple Rock, and the Turf Club. Last June, the band did a West Coast tour, and more recently, just learned that they have been re-signed by their record label.

In addition to music, Henry also enjoys snowboarding, most recently in the form of a weekend up at Lutsen, and photography, some of which is featured in his office.

Henry is also the proud owner of a sixteen year old three-legged cat named Garfield, a bearded dragon, and a fish.

From the Desk of Statler and Waldorf

For those who hail from warmer climates, we hope you are enjoying the refreshing Minnesota weather so far this season. Unfortunately we have not earned any bragging rights as we have yet to break any records. Of course, we have some time to go.



fortunate with the idea of readily presenting their ID when asked. One student recently pointed out that I asked for his two days in a row. Consequently, I now know who he is

There are some things law students can brag about: Law students have been very good about not allowing others to follow them into the building and not letting non-UST people into the library when the doors are locked.

On a couple of occasions law students have notified Public Safety Officers of people in the building that they did not recognize as students or faculty. Those people were removed from the property and, in one case, an attempted theft was averted.

Students are great at bringing a steady supply of misplaced items to our desk. We especially see a lot of cell phones, iPods, and one half of earring pairs. Except for the earrings and

some watches, most get picked up by their owners very quickly.

To help keep the law school safe, we depend on students and staff to be observant of their surroundings. If something or someone looks out of place we ask that students to tell us so we can look into it. We work hard to try to get to know all the students' faces, if not their names. Those that stop by the desk, or that we run into when we are walking around the building, are always easily recognized in a very short time. Some we meet by asking to see IDs because we don't recognize them. Law students seem very com-

In light of several recent incidents in the Harmon Parking Ramp and other nearby parking ramps, we want to remind students to also stay alert to their surroundings when outside of the law school. If someone acts in a way that seems unusual or suspicious, please let us know right away. We prefer to check on incidents and find that there was no problem, than discover afterward that something happened that could have been easily prevented.

Editors Note: "From the Desk of Statler and Waldorf" is a new column from our own security experts Brad Hanson and Pete Willner. I also hope these guys forgive me for using these photos. I'm sure I haven't captured their best sides.

Collaborative Law Lunch to be Held

Kellie Bigham

On Tuesday, March 10 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Kemi Rampi will present a Collaborative Law lunch and discussion. Rampi, a Collaborative Law attorney and member of the Collaborative Law Institute of Minnesota, encourages all students who are interested in Family Law, mediation or the ADR process to attend and learn more about the innovative and rapidly growing area of law.

Rampi will provide students with information on the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) and the IACP's Annual Forum, which will take place in Minneapolis in 2009. This forum, being held October 23-25, will

celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the IACP and the 20-year anniversary of Collaborative Law. It will also feature a special tribute to Stu Webb, Minnesota native and founder of Collaborative Law.

It is expected that 600 or so Collaborative Law professionals from around the world will attend the event, which will provide a great networking opportunity for law students interested in Collaborative Law or even just family law. Law students will also have the opportunity to volunteer at the event and "man" rooms where the break out sessions will be held.

Rampi said that the Forum allows Collaborative practitioners from around the nation and world to come together

to network and learn together, making it a one-of-a-kind atmosphere. For more information on the IACP, see: www.collaborativepractice.com.

There will also be information at the March 10th meeting about getting involved with the CLI and signing up for a CLI student membership, which includes: training and resources, marketing support, an online member profile and multidisciplinary networking.

Much more information about the Collaborative Law process, and the Act can be found at www.collaborativelaw.org.

See The Docket for the week of March 10th to find out where Kemi Rampi's lunch will be held.

Point: *Why I can't get on board with Law School Prom*

By Joanna Salmen

Around this time of year a certain buzz starts around the law school.

“Where is your dress from?”

“Who is your date?”

“Oh my gosh!”

“Should we get a hotel room?”

Walking through the second floor hallway into the library where people are “tabling” (yes, it is now a verb!) there is one table where many students are gathering. And then I see it. On neon poster board in block letters: LAW SCHOOL PROM. I start to laugh uncontrollably, thinking this must be some kind of joke. I mean, Prom? For law students? As if this place is not enough like high school already, now there is a Prom? After I got over my giggle fit I realized that they must call it Law School Prom to be funny. Yes, that has to be it. They are trying to be funny! And then the buzz grew louder.

“Do you want to go shopping for dresses after class?”

“Are you getting her a corsage?”

Oh no. I started to get dizzy and lightheaded. This Law School Prom is being taken seriously. Very seriously

(*For the record:* my date never ditched me on Prom night in high school and if I remember correctly, I had a good time. So my aversion to Law School Prom is not because I was a woman scorned.)

Everyone seemed to be on board with this idea of a Prom so I started to feel like a Debby Downer.

“Maybe it is me,” I thought.

Maybe law school blinded me and destroyed my ability to recognize fun, even when it is written in block letters on neon poster board. No, that can't be it. I'm pretty fun.

Just in case, I called some of my old college roommates, all of whom

could have fun in a cardboard box. Their responses, when I told them I was thinking of going to Prom, went something like this:

Friend 1: “(Hysterics)... Wait, are you serious?”

Friend 2: “Prom is in the Spring.”

And finally, *Friend 3:* “Uh, you would know better than me, but isn't that a potential felony if he's under



18?”

After explaining it was Law School Prom, Friend 2 and 3 began to respond like Friend 1. Confirming I wasn't going crazy, they agreed the concept of Law School Prom was kind of weird.

(*Another note:* I do not think I am too cool for the Prom. In fact, I can almost guarantee I will be laying on my couch watching “48 Hours Mystery” on Saturday night.)

After talking to my college friends I wondered if other law schools had Law School Prom. That might make

it a little better. So I asked friends attending different law schools if their school had Prom. The answer from each was a resounding, “no.” Then came the caveats:

Non-UST Law School Friend 1:

“(Laughter) Law School Prom?! No, we don't have Prom. That is ridiculous. We have a Winter Ball at the end of January.”

Non-UST Law School Friend 2: “Are you serious? We do not have that. I mean, we have a gala at the beginning of April but we don't have a Prom.”

Non-UST Law School Friend 3: “I don't know. Why? Do you? LUCKY!”

Winter Ball? Gala? Jealousy? That sounds like a blast! And then it dawned on me. The Winter Ball and the gala were just Law School Proms disguised by way better names.

Thus, the solution: call it something other than Law School Prom. I know people had a great time at Prom last year and I am sure there will be dance-offs and good times this year, but those people, when asked what they did over the weekend, still have to respond, “I went to Prom.”

That is something I cannot do (without laughing). It would be so much better to be able to say, “I went to a Winter Ball.”

Think about it – this would completely eliminate the otherwise necessary qualification that no, you were not at a high school or a nursing home this weekend but out with people closer to your age.

In conclusion, while I am sure Law School Prom is a fun night for all who attend, I am unable to go, unless the name is changed. Even then I still cannot go because I dance like Elaine from *Seinfeld* and that is embarrassing. And I wrote this article.

THE STYLE PAGES

Opinions, Love Letters, and Legal Advice

Counter-point: *“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”*

By Kellie Bigham

Even if we attempt to disguise Law Prom with a fancier name, the Hyatt ballroom on Law Prom night will still harvest the same sweet smells of booze, sweat, and shrimp cocktail. And while I agree that the word “prom” implies underpinnings of immaturity, salacious drama and downright cheesiness, no title is more perfectly suited for the event.

Yes, calling our winter formal a “ball” or a “gala” would be a much sexier approach, but let’s get real. This is not the Upper East Side. We (most of us) will not be wearing YSL gowns or finely-tailored monkey suits. The Hyatt is not transformed into anything close to what my (maybe unrealistic) expectations envision a ball being—seafood buffet and free drink ticket, yes; crystal chandeliers and shiny marble floors, no.

Before we grow up (completely) and inevitably take ourselves too seriously, let’s not take ourselves too seriously right now. The fact that you attended “prom” last weekend should be something you proclaim jovially to non-law school friends, allowing you to feel young and free!

Terming it Law Prom is also sensible. We all know that law school is similar in many ways to high school. (Lockers, gossip, talent shows, cliques, to name a few.) If we reason logically, it only makes sense that law students attend Law Prom.

But why go? (Besides being able to see your classmates looking absolutely gorgeous and dapper.)

As long as honesty is our policy...

A few of us may have possibly

been deemed “socially awkward,” “nerdy,” or possibly even “uptight”



in high school. These characteristics don’t exactly qualify as first picks for prospective prom dates. Yes, some of us probably went to prom all four years and with the captain of the lacrosse team (ahem, Joanna), but for everyone else who spent the most highly anticipated night of their high school career studying for an AP Gov. test or crocheting their speech coach a scarf, Law Prom is about second chances. Three second-chances, to be exact, to put down the highlighters, gel up the hair, and shake it like a Polaroid

picture.

Finally, Law Prom should be appreciated for all that it isn’t. It isn’t about a \$300 dress that chafes your inner-arms, it isn’t about sweating through awkward picture-taking sessions, and it isn’t even about having a date. In fact, going stag is not only accepted, it’s expected. (Which I wish I would’ve known last year before resorting to my dad to set me up with a date last minute.) Ultimately, Law Prom strips the prom norm of all of its annoying, conventional expectations and stresses, leaving law students with a much-needed night of immaturity, salacious drama and downright craziness. This is a good thing, no matter what we call it in block letters on a pink sign.

Point, Counter-point wants to know what you want Kellie and Joanna to debate! Send your suggestions to cbhazelbaker@stthomas.edu

Also, your opinions are always welcome in this space.

THE BRIEF: A Monthly Publication of Awards, Publications, and Recognition

Faculty/Administration

Julie Oseid's article entitled "The Power of Brevity: Adopt Abraham Lincoln's Habits" was accepted for publication in the Fall 2009 Best Practices in Persuasion issue of the Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors. The article was listed on SSRN's Top Ten download list for Law School Research Papers – Legal Studies for several weeks. She also made a colloquium presentation at Marquette University Law School entitled, "Show Me the Way: Mentoring Lawyers Through War Stories." She will present on this topic at the Applied Storytelling Conference in Portland, Oregon in July. . . . "On Friday, January 9, in San Diego, California, **Jerry Organ** was one of three faculty from around the country (along with Michael Schwartz from Washburn and Richard Neumann from Hofstra) to participate in a panel presentation to the ABA Standards Review Committee which is considering a shift in ABA Standards toward greater use of outcome measures. Dean Organ discussed the Learning Objectives Survey which School of Law faculty and adjunct faculty are completing in an effort to "map" our curriculum and better identify the topics, skills and values that are taught here at UST and the places in the curriculum where these topics, skills and values are emphasized... **Neil Hamilton** published "Faculty Professionalism: An Opportunity for Catholic Higher Education to Vitalize the Academic Profession's Social Contract," in Current Issues in Catholic Higher Education and "The Financial Sector's Catastrophic Failure of Prudence: A Time for Self-Assessment," in Minnesota Lawyer (Dec. 15, 2008). . . . On January 28th, **Hank Shea** spoke on "Ethics and White Collar Crime" to the Business and Organizational

Ethics Partnership at Santa Clara University and on January 29th, he and Steve Rondestvedt, a felon and former lawyer, made a joint ethics presentation at Stanford Law School on the consequences of attorney misconduct. . . **Tom Berg** helped conceive and organize a discussion between columnists E.J. Dionne (the *Washington Post*) and David Brooks (the *New York Times*) on "The Legacy of Reinhold Niebuhr and the Future of Christian Realism," held at Georgetown University on January 29 and moderated by Krista Tippett, host of National Public Radio's *Speaking of Faith*. The discussion covered the relevance of Niebuhr's thought, which President Obama has identified as a major philosophical influence on him, for international and domestic issues. Professor Berg also spoke on "Religious Liberty, the Supreme Court, and Faith Today" at a January 31 CLE sponsored by the Minnesota Family Institute . . . **Rob Vischer** spoke on "Being a Christian Lawyer" at a symposium titled "Faith, Worldview, and the Law" sponsored by the University of Minnesota chapter of the Christian Legal Society. His essay, "Church, State, and Proposition 8," was published as *Commonweal* magazine's cover story. . . . **Lisa Schiltz** was a panelist on the topic "Law, Disability, and the Human Person," at the 2009

Annual Conference on Christian Legal Thought, co-sponsored by the Lumen Christi Institute and Law Professors' Christian Fellowship, in San Diego, CA, on January 10, 2009. She also gave a talk on "Dueling Vocations:



Managing the Tensions between our Private and Public Callings," sponsored by the Fordham Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer's Work and co-sponsored by The Guild of Catholic Lawyers of the Archdiocese of New York, at Fordham Law School in New York, NY, on Jan. 30, 2009. . . . **Susan Stabile's** article, The Challenges of Opening a Dialogue Between Catholic and Secular Feminist Legal Theorist, has been accepted for publication



DiscoverLaw.org Month's Legal Education Awareness Program for high school students at William Mitchell College of Law on February 12, 2009. She will also be attending recruiting future UST-Law students at the LSAC Houston Forum on February 14th, the University of Minnesota Careers in Law program on February 25th and the LSAC Los Angeles Forum on February 28, 2009. . . . **Valerie Munson** was quoted for her expertise in church property law on the front page of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on February 2, 2009.

About the Brief: The Brief is a monthly publication of awards, publications, and recognition at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. Items will be published once, either at the time of acceptance or at the time of publication based on the author or awardees preference. Submissions should be sent to cbhazelbaker@stthomas.edu on or before the last Monday of each month. More information and headlines about the School of Law are updated weekly on Wednesday at www.stthomas.edu/law.

by the St. John's Journal of Catholic Legal Thought. On Saturday January 31, Susan gave a retreat day for students and alumni of the St. Catherine's Masters of Theology program on Spirituality Across Faith Traditions.

Staff

Monique McCarthy will be presenting to students at Patrick Henry High School in North Minneapolis on February 6, 2009 during their Community Involvement Day. She will also be representing UST-Law at the Joint Minnesota Law Schools

COMING ATTRACTIONS

For the most complete list of events at the School of Law check www.stthomas.edu/law/news and make sure to read "The Docket" online

Student Lunchtime Reflection - Mid-Day Reflection

Becoming All We Can Be

As we grow and develop, things happen that cause us to lose sight of who we really are. Our experiences, our psychic and emotional hurts of various kinds, different messages that we get along the way, create baggage in us. We develop certain myths – myths that serve to block us from seeing ourselves for who we are and prevent us from becoming all we can be. This lunchtime reflection will invite us to spend some time trying to identify and understand some of the myths we live with and to start to process of laying some of them aside, replacing them with a richer understanding of who we truly are and can be.

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2009
 Time: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Location: MSL 324
 R.S.V.P.: To lawrsvp@stthomas.edu

Black History Month Guest

Speaker: Sharon Sayles Belton, former Mayor of Minneapolis

Date: Thursday, February 19, 2009
 Time: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 R.S.V.P.: To lawrsvp@stthomas.edu

Spring Public Service Day

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2009
 Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Location: One of three Habitat for Humanity sites within St. Paul
 R.S.V.P. by 5 P.M. on Friday, February 13 by emailing lawpsb@stthomas.edu
 Cost: None

Lenten Retreat in Daily Living Walking With Jesus in His Passion

This Retreat in Daily Living offers an opportunity to experience the richness of the Lenten season, Holy Week and Easter Week. It will focus on personal prayer and our experience of God in our prayer and daily life.

Through our prayer we will seek to enter experientially into the mind and heart of Jesus in his passion, death and resurrection. In a "Retreat in Daily Living," participants commit themselves to a half-hour of prayer each day and go about their daily lives as usual. Prayer material relating to the theme of the retreat is provided for each day. In addition to a daily period of personal prayer, the participants in the retreat will meet for an hour each week. During this time they will share their experience of prayer in small groups and Professor Stabile will offer input on prayer and some of the dynamics of this type of retreat experience. She will also provide prayer material for each day of the following week. A light lunch will be served. This retreat is open to all University of St. Thomas students, faculty and staff and is designed for those beginning to pray in a personal way as well as for those who have been praying for years.

Dates: 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14

Time: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Location:
 R.S.V.P.: To lawrsvp@stthomas.edu

The Latino Law Students Present: Real Estate Development in Latin America

Date: February 26
 Time: 12:30 p.m.
 Location: MSL 244
 Lunch Provided

Admission Admitted Applicant Program

Date: February 27
 Time: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Location: University of St. Thomas School of Law
 R.S.V.P.: Email the Admissions Office at lawschool@stthomas.edu or call the Admissions Office at (651) 962-4895.

11th Street Hockey Cup

School of Law vs. School of Business
 Date: February 27
 Time: 7:30 p.m.
 Location: Augsburg Ice Arena
 Social to follow

Alumni Snow Tubing Event

Join fellow law school alumni for an evening of winter fun at Buck Hill! Eat some snacks, drink some hot cocoa, and socialize with friends in the hillside chalet. Then, tube the night away on the snow hill.

Date: February 28
 Time: 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and Tubing 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Location: Buck Hill
 15400 Buck Hill Road
 Burnsville, MN 55306
 (952) 435.7174
 Cost: \$11 Per person and Families Welcome!
 R.S.V.P.: Go to www.stthomas.edu/law/rsvp

Promote Your Event

When planning and promoting an event at the University of St. Thomas School of Law there are several resources to help.

Always start with Angela Dzik to set the space and date of all events.

Contact Chato Hazelbaker to make sure the event appears on the website and to discuss other ways to promote the event.

Contact LuAnn Hudson to make sure your event appears in "The Docket."