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Student Bar Association William Mitchell College of Law

875 Summit Avenue

St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

(612) 290-6370

Editor-in-Chief - Jo Mayer

Production Editor - Charles S. Gerlach

Marketing Editor - Lisa Bessler

Staff Editor - Mark Metz

Art Director - Corey Anderson

Columnists - Brian Alexander, Will Jarvis, Dan Le

Virnig elected Eighth Circuit Governor

By Carrie Clubb

While other Mitchell students traveled to sunny, exotic beaches over spring break, I had the pleasure of joining Jim Mogen, Andy Kremer and Matt Virnig in Des Moines for the eighth circuit ABA conference. The spring conference, hosted by Drake University, proved to be a very successful event for William Mitchell and a memorable weekend for us. Not only did we experience Des Moines' nightlife at Papa's Planet, and show off our artistic abilities painting birdhouses for charity, but we were also given several awards to take home to William Mitchell.

The highlight of the weekend, however, was when the eighth circuit elected second-year, Matt Virnig, circuit governor.

As governor, Matt's jurisdiction includes thirteen law schools in six states: Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. His primary responsibility is to serve as the main link between representatives from the thirteen law schools and the board of governors.

At each circuit meeting, law students present, discuss and vote on resolutions affecting law schools and law students generally. If a resolution is passed at the circuit level, it goes to the board of governors to be voted on there. On the board, Matt will sit with the fourteen other circuit governors in the nation, and he will vote on whether or not a resolution should be passed to the national assembly.

Over the past couple of years, about nine of the thirteen law schools in the eighth circuit have attended the fall, spring and summer conferences. Over the next year, Matt plans to personally contact and perhaps visit the schools currently not participating in the ABA-LSD. "My goal by next fall is to have all thirteen schools participating," Matt said. He also hopes to hold next fall's meeting at William Mitchell.

In addition to being elected governor, Matt was honored with the silver key award at the Iowa meeting. The award is for outstanding service as a liaison between the ABA-LSD and TIPS (Tort and Insurance

Practice Section of the ABA). Matt has served as a liaison over the past year and plans to continue that position during his term as governor.

At the spring conference, William Mitchell was also recognized for its active participation in the ABA-LSD. We were awarded a bronze key for having the highest membership in the eighth circuit. Almost forty-nine percent of Mitchell students are ABA members. That is one of the highest membership records in the nation. As ABA representative, Kelly Schendel has worked extremely hard this year to achieve such membership statistics. The bronze key is no doubt a result of Kelly's hard work.

To complete our weekend, we were given yet another plaque to bring home for William Mitchell. Our ABA-LSD division was chartered and announced at the meeting in Des Moines.

We are now an officially recognized chapter of the American Bar Association-Law Student Division.

William Mitchell's success in the ABA has been recognized on the local, circuit and national levels this year: We have been recognized for several achievements and have established a prominent reputation in the eighth circuit. Much of this recent success is attributable to past and present ABA representatives Matt Sheffield and Kelly Schendel for increasing membership and encouraging students to be involved in the ABA. Matt Virnig's participation and enthusiasm over the past two years has also been remarkable. But ultimately, the participation of the students is what has made the ABA successful. Besides making circuit meetings a lot of fun, student participation has enabled us to create a thriving VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program this year and coordinate a local community service project.

As a first-year student, my initial involvement in the ABA has been a lot of fun and very rewarding. In addition to working on community service projects and accompanying fellow Mitchell students to circuit meetings, I had the opportunity to serve as a proxy for Kelly Schendel at Drake. These experiences, along with the success and national recognition of the ABA at William Mitchell, have encouraged me to continue my participation by running for ABA representative this spring.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to get involved with the ABA. With student participation and the leadership of Matt Virnig as Eighth Circuit Governor, 1997-98 is sure to be another successful year.

[Image](#)

Congratulations to Matt Virnig, WMCL 2L, new 8th Circuit Governor of the ABA/LSD.

[Image](#)

Delta Theta Phi Talent Show a Big Success. The Delta Theta Phi held its annual talent show on February 22, 1997, to benefit the WMCL daycare. The children of the daycare stole the show with their witty knock-knock jokes. See page 7 for complete coverage of the talent show.

[Outside of the Twin Cities, There's This Little Place Called Minnesota](#)

[A Career Services Profile: Paul Glaeser, Attorney at Law](#)

How would you like to start your law practice with such notoriety that the local newspaper runs a front page article announcing your arrival and the opening of your law office? How would you like to be so well respected, right out of law school, that everyone in town seeks your advice -and not just legal advice, but everything from how to handle investments to what kind of car you recommend?

If you begin your practice in the Twin Cities, or any other major metropolitan area, you will probably not experience such immediate fame. In fact, it could be a matter of years before your name is well-recognized among local practitioners outside of your specialty area, let alone the community at large, and even longer before you are invited to sit on a local board or enter the local political arena.

But, such instant renown can happen in the hundreds of small towns in Greater Minnesota. It is exactly what happened to William Mitchell alumni Paul Glaeser ('91) in Gibbon, Minnesota. After growing up in St. Paul, clerking during law school for Holmes & Graven, a downtown Minneapolis firm, and upon graduation, with about five months in a solo practice in Wayzata, Glaeser moved his practice to Gibbon, Minnesota.

The big shift was you arrive with a certain level of notoriety. It's not every day someone opens a business in a small town -much less an attorney. "I came, and there was a story on the front page of the paper. It was awfully nice."

Making the Leap ... we discovered we missed Vietnamese food

How does a city lawyer with the makings of a successful practice right out of law school come to be in Gibbon? Although Glaeser never lived there growing up, he does have some ties. "A cousin of mine, who is a William Mitchell graduate, was living in Gibbon with his wife who is also a Mitchell graduate. They suggested that I consider moving there. My father, my great grandfather, and my grandfather lived here, my father until about 1939.

"I wrote to a senior attorney who was practicing in the area, and I asked him what he thought about it. He said it was a nice place to be able to work. He was 87 and still practicing. That sounds like quite a testimonial.

"But, quite an adjustment, too. Oh, yes. My wife-is from New York City. I got her to Minneapolis, and then about a year and a half later, we packed up and moved to Gibbon. She told me if I had been living here when we first met, she probably would not have made the leap ... and I didn't know I was coming here at the time ... but now that she's here she absolutely loves it.

"Some changes were welcome. It certainly shortened my commute. I'm now two blocks from my office," says Glaeser. On a nice day, he can walk to work, but sometimes prefers to drive the two blocks in his convertible.

"We were living in Southeast Minneapolis, right near Dinky town, so it was quite a change to move from the Outside of the Twin Cities crowded city to a town of 700. The things we discovered we missed were Vietnamese food, and being able to get to the movies easily. For the most part, you go to work and you go home. You aren't going to the Guthrie very night. It did help to be married. I think having a supportive spouse, and making a leap like that certainly helps.

On The Way to Main Street: "The office-was sometimes referred to as 'the chicken coop,' but I'm told there were never any chickens in it ...

Glaeser started out in Gibbon working with Everett Young, a 1932 graduate of the William Mitchell predecessor Minnesota College of Law, and the senior attorney Glaeser first consulted about practicing law in Gibbon. "I started by working with him. I was assisting with his cases, and eventually took over his practice ... I was the only full-time office here at that time. Carole Isakson opened an office here about a

year and a half after I did. Now we have a lovely, renovated building on Main Street, with all the latest computer gizmos. BUI. even in Gibbon, Glaeser didn't start out on Main Street. He came to Gibbon in the fall of 1991 -the year of the Great Halloween Blizzard. He began working with Everett Young out of his office on the farm, which was seven miles from any town. He had a drive-up business. Everyone just knew where he lived.

The autumn months were fabulous. It was beautiful looking out over the fields -the cows up there - looking out from the office. Then we got the blizzard of Halloween. I was working in the office, and it wasn't quite as lovely. It was a little cold. I went to work on my computer, and it was so cold in the office the computer wouldn't boot up. I put a blanket over the computer, and a barn-heater under the blanket to warm up the computer. I sat with a lap blanket and worked, occasionally having my teeth chatter it was so cold.

A Mentor: "He helped. He gave me a lot of perspective."

Glaeser's fondness of Everett Young as a mentor and teacher is clear He remembers his first meetings with Young as one of the things that characterizes a small town practice "I had written to him. He wrote back a very nice letter saying he had known a number of my relatives, and had been hunting with them, and involved with them in a number of community things over the years, and he had said it was a very nice place to do business, and that he had always held a great respect for my family which, I thought - gee, that's nice.

"I met with him at his office out on the farm. He asked me, 'Where are you planning on living?' I said, 'Probably in Gibbon.' He said, 'Well, that's a long way from the courthouse' (It's about 15 miles to the courthouse). He paused for a moment, and said, 'Well, it's not bad now that the roads are paved' It's true. When he came here there were no paved roads. He helped. He gave me a lot of perspective."

A Small Town Practice: "I need to remind myself, I don't do all things ... "

Now, settled on Main Street, Glaeser has found "you do tend to be a general practitioner, and I need to remind myself that I don't do all things. That's where the complementary practice Carol and I have built is really great. Carol is very knowledgeable in the bankruptcy and business area. I don't do any bankruptcy. I represent small corporations.

Your role in a smaller community -it's not hired litigator -it's everything from family counselor to people asking for investment advice, which I don't claim to have any knowledge of. But, as far as the business goes, people get divorced, they die, they sell real estate ... A lot of rural areas are aging communities. You do tend to see real estate and probate and something you need to be versed in."

Glaeser occasionally has a client with an issue he doesn't handle, such as patent work. 'Tm not doing patent law. There are plenty of resourceful people out here who have established businesses based on their own inventions. Once I called a law school classmate who referred me to someone doing patent law, and it turned out quite nicely ... "

Glaeser still keeps in touch with law school classmates, although not as often as "when we all first got out of the chute ... I guess I just don't have as many questions anymore. But I don't have any hesitation to call someone and say, 'What do you think about this?' or 'Have you ever come across this before?' It

can be some odd things. I had a question on the administrative law process, and I talked to a number of attorneys who said, 'Never done it, never been there.'

The Small Town Network: " ... one of the wonderful things we have here is a very collegial atmosphere among the attorneys in the area."

The support network for a small town lawyer is just as important, if not more so, than it is for the urban practitioner. Isolation has long been associated with a rural, solo practitioner. "You have to be resourceful," Glaeser explains. "Five years ago we didn't have the Internet, and I was making more trips to the law library back in those days. Now, with the Internet and CD-ROM services, and the fax machine we can study anything we want, or we can find it pretty easily."

Even if technology does lessen the isolation a rural attorney may experience, it does not replace the importance of maintaining your network with other lawyers. Glaeser commented on the legal network in his area, "You need to be self-motivated – as anyone entering a solo practice. You are a bit more distant from the network of colleagues, however, one of the wonderful things we have here is a very collegial atmosphere among the attorneys in the area."

There's a small group of us, and we see each other all the time. In our county there are five towns and 14 attorneys. Our county gets together and we can usually fit around one table. You establish a closer working relationship with the court administration and other county officers. You get much more knowledgeable on the county level as to how to work to make the community livable. It's quite an education. Especially if you come out of Hennepin or Ramsey County."

Lawyer's Role in a Small Community: "If you like meetings, there's plenty of places to go ... "

In a rural community your network is not limited to lawyers. Community involvement is a way of life. Glaeser's experience is, "You generally take on a pretty high profile in the community ... you end up giving back even more than if you lived in the Twin Cities. The first year I lived here I was on the Economic Development Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, the Restoration Society, and I'm now on my second term on the School Board. You are able to use the skills you learned in law school in many areas. If you like meetings, there's plenty of places to go ... there's a lot of work to be done."

Glaeser's commitment to the members of his community is strong. The attorney credential in a smaller community can be strong, and it comes with a responsibility "...especially with the senior citizens. They have benefitted from a long relationship with attorneys they've been comfortable with. They have respect for your opinion even though they may not know you personally. You come with a certain degree of credibility, and you need to certainly live up to it."

Making Contacts: "You do everything from frying the bratwurst at the summer celebration to hauling picnic tables ... "

Perhaps the degree of community involvement and commitment comes easier to those attorneys who have family ties in the area. If this type of practice appeals to you, and you don't have ties in a smaller community, Paul Glaeser thinks you can make them. "When you come in as a relative outsider -I was fortunate to have a recognized family name and the attorney who was well-respected -it's a lot harder to walk in cold someplace."

"I have a friend, an attorney, who did just that. He came out of the blue, and landed, and he's been here about ten years. It's a little bit tougher it's nice to have those contacts, but on the other hand, you can establish them. You can become quite visible by participating in the community events. So if you want to do anything, there's plenty of community work. You do everything from frying the bratwurst at the summer celebration to hauling picnic tables ... "

Small Town Clients: "People will recommend you because of their experience with you."

It may seem that with a "drive-up" business, or an office on Main Street in Gibbon, Minnesota, and a strong level of community involvement, a small town practitioner doesn't have to do any rainmaking. Glaeser says that's not entirely true, however. "I've spoken to seniors groups on disability planning, I've spoken to school groups, and we advertise in four or five different papers. But, a lot of it is word of mouth. People will recommend you because of their experience with you."

The nature of the clients, and the flexibility you have; can be another draw to a small town practice. Glaeser has struck some deals he probably wouldn't have been able to in a big city law firm. "I held a Bob-Cat Skid loader for about a year and-a half as collateral until payment came. It was parked in my backyard, and a lot of people came and asked me if they could use it, but it wasn't really mine ...In settling one case I took part of it as a riding lawn mower. This guy didn't have the cash, and I wanted a riding lawn mower...

"One of the absolute highlights for me was the fellow who wasn't paying me, and we had been working hard in a pretty long process. He'd come in from the pea field – sweet peas – and he'd brought in a bucket, a gallon pail of sweet peas that he'd picked two hours before – ad they're absolutely spectacular – you could just eat 'em by the handful...fresh from the field sweet peas. You always get asked if you want half a steer, corn-on-the-cob. It's pretty fun.

"Oh, I also received two clown cars. Clown cars -that clowns ride in parades. I was holding those and waiting for payment on something. They were fun. Little, Model-T-looking clown cars ... "

Living in Gibbon: " ... a bedroom community."

Glaeser not only enjoys the work in Gibbon, but the lifestyle, too. It's a lovely little town about 90 miles southwest of the Twin Cities. We often go in to the Twin Cities for the day, whether it's for a family event, or to go to a show...it's an easy commute." He describes Gibbon as a place where for each home owned in Minneapolis you could buy three, and a place where the school system is excellent. He says in the city, parents might have the advantage of having a choice of different schools, but in Gibbon, "We don't need a choice. We only have one, but it's excellent."

Dispelling the common myth that if you live in a small town you must be a farmer, Glaeser says, "Gibbon is surrounded by agriculture, but the city itself is a bedroom community. A lot of people work in New Ulm or Mankato or Hutchinson. The big employers are 3M, Hutchinson Technology, or Kraft – there are a lot of big companies out here. We have some industry in town. There's a select group of us who work in town. That's very nice. Two blocks from work...run up and work, or run home for lunch. That's always a nice thing."

Glaeser says anyone considering a small community life should know that "...something you give up when you leave the city is your anonymity. You don't live an invisible life in the community. People know

who you are and what you do. The people who are your neighbors, they know where you shop, and what you drive, and they usually are not hesitant about calling you at home, or stopping by when you're in the garden for a little legal advice."

Is that a disadvantage? Not for Glaeser. "The other thing is, you become a lot closer to your neighbors – it's amazing. I lived in Southeast Minneapolis for six years, and I knew more people here in six months than that neighborhood for six years. You meet them up and down the block, or at the Lion's Club, or whatever organization you end up in."

The Bottom Line: " ... I enjoy what I'm doing."

For Paul Glaeser, the very best thing about his life and practice in a smaller community is, "The difference I perceive, from talking to my classmates, is I enjoy what I'm doing. People who are in practice in the Twin Cities often will say that the relations between attorneys are strained and there's a lot of non-collegial-type behavior, and that's too bad. I know it doesn't have to be that way, and the bar association is trying to make it a more collegial atmosphere."

For students or practitioners considering "making the leap," as Glaeser did, he says, "It's a nice opportunity – one that will drive many people crazy. If you like the Guthrie every night, and the night life, you won't be happy. But, one of the things in terms of 'larger, small towns' like Mankato, New Ulm, Albert Lea- you can go ten miles out of those towns, and there are small towns, if you want to work in a medium-sized community, it's pretty easy to do...Don't rule out the out-state offices. There are a lot of very nice, very professional firms that I have enjoyed working with.

"And do the research before you go. Writing to Everett Young was the best thing I did. I had a number of people say to me, 'You shouldn't even think about moving out there...' because one, I didn't know anything about it. But I went right to the source. I asked someone who worked in the area, 'What can you do?' He explained it. It's not the \$200,000 a year downtown Minneapolis job with a parking place, but it's not downtown Minneapolis either, and in Gibbon, the parking's free."

[Letter to the Editor](#)

To the Students of William Mitchell College of Law:

By the time you read this, most of you will be aware that I am no longer employed by the Warren Burger Library. As this action was taken during Spring Break, I did not have an opportunity to say farewell to those of you whom I have gotten to know over the course of the past six months. While I do not intend to use these pages as a forum for my views on the reasons behind my termination, please let me assure you of one thing: contrary to what you might hear (whether through the "grapevine" or from the administration itself), my departure was not voluntary, nor was it "a mutual decision." That I wish to make perfectly clear.

My purpose in writing this letter is to simply say what a pleasure it was to work with all of you. Whether you worked for me in the library, had problems with a copier or computer, or requested a book from reserve, I truly enjoyed getting to know so many of you. Your enthusiasm for the law and its potential to make society a better place are admirable. Each one of you will, I believe, make a difference in someone's life, and it has been an honor to play a small part in your training and education. I wish you all the best of luck in your chosen careers.

As for the library, I urge you to make the most of its resources: books, computers, librarians. Although it may have been partly funded by donations and others may use it, your tuition dollars maintain it and buy the new materials. Warren Burger Library belongs to you. Remind the administration of this fact. Speak up when you disagree with policies and procedures. Make yourselves heard. The facilities and resources in that building are some of the best I have seen, don't ignore them.

Finally, I wish to express a personal goodbye to those of you who became more than patrons or employees. I consider you my friends. To Debbie Botham, Dianna Mrasak, Carey Lindgren, Mike Keogh, Tim Kozak, Charlie Von Feldt, Mike Henry, Dana Marquez, Lissa Lacher, Kari Lillesaml, Kris Frederick, Stacey Edwards, Kristin Kershasky; Dave McNamara, Dan Happe, Ann Klostermann, David Dykes, Paul Henderson, Andrew Sherwood, Todd Phelps, Chuck Gerlach, Sandra Smalley, Amy Brosnahan, John Guri, Rieb Ohlenberg, Jodene Jensen, Heidi Viesturs, Terry O'Brien, Gary Lenarz, Ken Engel, Sarah Sanville, Steve Miller, and Murray Thurston, I give you my thanks and sincere best wishes.

Sincerely,

Julie M. Sass

Former Collection Manager/Asst.

Circulation Supervisor

Warren Burger Library

William Mitchell College of Law

[The View From Left Field](#)

[My Racial Attitudes](#)

By Charles S. Gerlach

I have a confession to make. I am racist. I come by it naturally since I was raised that way.

My parents were both raised in ethnic neighborhoods. Mom, second generation Irish/English, was raised on Detroit's East-side. The East-side was what America means by melting pot. In reality, it's a homogeneous stew, of groups that couldn't help but rub up against each other. Dad grew up Down River in a fiercely German and Polish town.

When I was growing up my uncle (on my mother's side) educated me on who I was. I was "Irish" as in "Irish need not apply" and "No Dogs or Irish Allowed." I was also a Mick, a Cat-licker, Fisheater and Papist. He also let me in on the other ethnic degradations and where they applied. They are unfortunately too well known and prolific to list here. He was a self-professed Hobo, but made sure I knew that any self-respecting gutter drunk like him was better than a black.

In my house if racism was a crime, my parents would satisfy the gross-negligence culpability standard. They may not have meant what they said and did, but they failed to think. We were never allowed to use the words and names my uncle taught us, but we were provided more subtle expressions of the same attitude.

One of my dad's friends was a Jew. My dad thought Izzy was a good Jew -as if an exception or noteworthy of being singled out. He also complimented his friend by saying he was a better Christian than many of his Christian friends. I always wonder how Izzy would have felt about that'?

I remember my Dad commenting on the intelligence black people he met in his business, or the attractive black woman who sold drugs for a pharmaceutical company. It was as if he needed to point out a composition of characteristics not commonly associated with each other -black, intelligent, attractive.

But, in defense, my parents were not alone or solely responsible. They, like me, were products of their parents. They, like me, chose to live in an area where they would feel comfortable with their attitudes.

My town was racist too. We never had one black student in the thirteen years I attended. Except for the handicapped student who was bussed in from another town and sent to the special education program. Other than that, white.

But we still classified and distinguished. I knew who every Jew was in my school, all twelve of them. Every holiday season in grade school Gayle Elias would bring in her Dreidle and tell us how she celebrated Chanukah. Every year someone would ask if she still got Christmas presents. That was diversity.

The school district thought bringing inner city children to the suburb school was an all right idea. But they wouldn't send a bus load of our darlings into Detroit for fear of their safety. Inner city schools are where kids learn-to merge their consonant combinations, wear baggy clothes and use gang symbols. No thanks.

But, in honesty, the problem wasn't just with my family or my hometown. My country also taught me to be selective in my acceptance of other people. For two hundred years we have been pursuing a justification for racial inequality. We have moved from the brutal honesty of slavery, the separate but equal myth of racial segregation, to our current rationalization of economic reality. But the game still remains the same – you have yours, and don't ask for mine.

Racial attitudes prevail elsewhere. This country seriously toyed with building a barrier on our border with Mexico. Canadians are fine. We have in the past, and may yet again deny schooling and essential services to children because of who their parents are. Now, even though thousands have filed all the right papers, obeyed the rules, paid taxes and lived quietly, if a person doesn't love America enough to have been born here or naturalized, they are cut off.

Our troops go off to fight where white interests are at stake, allowing thousands of Moslems, Africans and others to be savaged by their countrymen.

It is true that I am a racist, albeit a conscious one. That is why when people tell me that race doesn't play any part in criminal charging documents, investigations or plea bargains, I smile. I know better. When I hear that there is not glass ceiling, no hiring preferences, no more discrimination, I refuse to believe. I have had the benefit of not only the inculturation from my family, but from my local and national societies as well. And I know that out here in left field, I am far from being alone.

One More Thing Before You Go

The Opinion staff asked a variety of professors and staff for their last piece of advice to graduating seniors. Following are their responses:

Pass on jobs that are going to “squeeze your soul.” If you take a job because the money’s too good to pass up or the money’s not good enough, then you’re likely to become bitter and get burned out early on. Eventually, you’ll end up quitting the profession. Examine your needs and figure out what type of job you can get by on, both financially and personally. Look at the big picture. Don’t just take the first job that comes along if it doesn’t meet your basic needs. Don’t lose sight of what’s in the distance by focusing on a job that seems to work for the short term.

-Judge Shumaker, District Court internship program

Never underestimate the value of your law degree and keep everything in perspective. Your law degree can take you to the top whether it’s practicing law or not. Remember how hard you worked, the sacrifices you gave, and the dedication you’ve shown. A law degree can do a lot more for you in your life than it may seem at this point. Whatever you do, enjoy yourself and remember the value of your degree.

-Professor Paul Rambow

Think carefully about what you want in a career. Think about what’s important to you. If you want the prestige, the high salary, and the experience of working for a top firm then you should look to the big firms. However, if you’re looking to get into a courtroom, willing to sacrifice in terms of salary, and have quality of life issues, then a small firm may be better suited. There are options out there meaning that what big firm life is for one person may not be for another. If you evaluate what you want in a job, it’s more likely you’ll be happy with your career path. The job market is opening up. There are a lot of opportunities out there, but like anything you’ve done up to this point, it takes persistence and hard work to get a job.

-Kimberlee Boulay, Career Services at William Mitchell

Define right now what areas of your life are most important to you. Family? Profession? Faith? Social contributions? Sports? The arts? Then pay close attention to all of those areas throughout your career. Practicing law can, and does, consume people. Don’t let important parts of yourself wither away simply because your profession makes the loudest and most persistent demands.

-Professor Christine Ver Ploeg

So much of practicing law is indeed an art, rather than a science. Each artist’s art is at the whim and direction of his or her muse. So you should follow your muse to the areas of law and practice that capture your interest and allow you to do your best work.

-Professor Kunz

Think about your first job as exactly that – a first job that you will hold for the immediately foreseeable, but indefinite future. You should look for jobs that will teach you portable skills – skills you can carry with you throughout your careers.

-Professor Peter Knapp

Work hard and stop and smell the roses occasionally.

-Dean Haynsworth

Your generation of lawyers must do better than mine as stewards of our profession. Focus on and remember the transcendental purposes that brought you to law school, particularly your interests in justice and helping others. Let those transcendentals guide your professional life; otherwise self-interest and money will dictate the choices of your generation as they largely have for mine. We will no longer be a profession.

-Professor Neil Hamilton

The pursuit of justice is a calling for the thinkers in law. In this lawyer's pursuit, strive for idealism in order to make the world idea. I miss you all.

-Professor Carter Bishop

What I Learned In Law School: A Charge to the Class of 1997

By Peter C. Brehm

This publication has asked that I write one last article in which I metaphorically thumb my nose at authority while yelling "Fight the Power!" Unfortunately, I had to decline their request to use my power of irony (this is a style of persuasion used by such professional attorneys as Abe Lincoln) to once again question the wisdom of "The Man." You see, law school has taught me that only three things result from mocking authority: 1) universal derision from all who are authority figures or aspire to authority status, 2) a disgusting proliferation of self-important, but-kissing students who have not yet recognized the existence of the anonymous grading system (or the fact that their professors don't want to be their friends), and 3) stark indifference from everyone else, because all anyone really cares about (including the author) is graduating and getting on with life.

Still, I had to write about something. So, having failed in my campaign to be selected as keynote speaker at graduation, and in an effort to get on with my own life as quickly as possible, I bring you a sample of what the graduating class would have heard had I been chosen to speak at graduation. It should not take long to discover that the Class of '97 made a wise decision in turning down my request. Enjoy!

A CHARGE TO THE STUDENT BODY

The education process, as any self respecting educator will tell you, is a marathon not a sprint. Knowledge is gained over time by building upon old information and experience with new information and experience. Like rings in the giant oak, if we were to cut down a law student, the knowledge gleaned by that student would, with the passing of each year, leave an indelible mark showing the educational development of that student. It seems to me then, that if we could cut a law student from the Class of '97 in half, and see the information building block which make up the rings of knowledge, this is what the information in your last four rings should look like:

I. RING ONE: Things you should have learned before law school

1. Attorneys are respected members of the community;

2. Law Students are smarter than everyone else;
3. Attorneys make big dough;
4. There is a direct correlation between intelligence and success;
5. Working as team makes everyone better;
6. People find you creative and entertaining;
7. It's okay to trust others, and;
8. You get what you pay for.

II. RING TWO: Things you should have learned during your first year of law school

1. Nobody likes law students, especially other law students;
2. There is absolutely no correlation between intelligence and success;
3. Never trust anyone, especially during finals;
4. There is an inverse correlation between a professor's hatred of canned briefs and their utility;
5. Outlining as a group is fun and informative;
6. Classroom attendance is essential to being a good attorney (at least for students);
7. The Forrester Memo was difficult to write;
8. Your legal writing instructor is wrong about you, and;
9. First year teaches you valuable things about the law.

III. RING THREE: Things you should have learned during your second year of law school

1. No one likes people who talk all the time in class, especially professors;
2. The friends you made first year are all jerks;
3. Some students spend too much time harassing their professors;
4. Those same students demonstrate how wrong you were about the intelligence of law students
5. Outlines created by study groups are useless;
6. The Forrester Memo was ridiculously easy;
7. Your legal writing instructor was right about you all along;
8. First year did not prepare you at all for life in the real world;
9. The average number of applications for a single clerkship is 165,003; and
10. First year students are really annoying and loud wherever they go.

IV. RING FOUR: Things you should have learned during or after your third year of law school

1. All the people who have caustic personalities are having a hard time:
 - a. Making friends,
 - b. Passing classes; and/or
 - c. Staying employed;
1. It really is who you know;
2. Everyone hates attorneys, including yourself;
3. All you really needed to get your degree was offered by Steven Emanuel;
1. The average starting salary for a first year attorney is \$6.75 an hour, not including tips;
2. Working as a team brings progress to a screeching halt;
3. Text books and professors cover cases which are wrong and irrelevant;
4. Classroom attendance, while required, is a waste of time;
5. Your friends think you are boring;
6. You are not ready to trust anyone, even your mom seems like she's hiding something;
7. You never really got what you paid for.

This list is by no means exhaustive, and I should expect that some of you learned considerably more than this. You may, however, rest assured that if you did not learn these things, you were probably too busy "participating" in class, or blowing sunshine, to see the forest for the trees.

As for the rest of you, those who understand that your suffering did not make you a better person, and who will share the stage with me (God willing) on June 1, 1997, I offer my sincerest congratulations for your perseverance. And though I have neither the wisdom nor the experience to make such a statement, I nevertheless offer this charge to the class:

Over the last three years there has been a great deal of bloodshed, and many broken lives. It is easy, I suspect to deal with your frustration and hostility by moving on without looking back at the harm that was effected. With the impending peace, however comes the need for reparation. By necessity, I think there is an overwhelming selfishness in the education of a Jaw student, and some of us would do well to apologize to our friends as well as our families. You are never bigger than your family, and never better than your friends.

Of course, no speech would be complete without a quote, and in support of my position that none of us are as smart as we think we are, I offer you two quotes from Mark Twain. I'm not sure what the significance of these quotes is, except to make sure you give everyone their props ("respect").

"When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But, when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years."

From A Memorable Assassination: "a king is a king by accident, the reason the rest of us are not kings is merely due to another accident; we are all made of the same clay, and it is a sufficiently poor quality."

Fight the power!

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO SACH

A Column

By Daniel Sach Le

Closure

Why did I go to law school? A fifth grade teacher's passionate tale of the great Clarence Darrow representing Leopold & Loeb. He won, Back then, before O.J., that was the trial of the century. Asked why he represented the two murderers and got them off, Darrow answered, "why not." I guess you could say that that was my answer. After all the beer, exams, and barbs fired at Bitchell, here I am staring at reality with a degree in one hand and a \$60K tab in the other.

I am a caricature of lady justice (without the dress, not that there's anything wrong with that), blind, yet fully able to discern that my debt outweighs my juris doctorate. This balance will change with a little luck and hard work: However, there is another balance that tugs at me because it has not quite reached a - final balance. It's a weight that bears on my heart. I have taken from Mitchell what I thought it took from me at times. I was never innocent, just a bit naive. maybe that's why I lashed out against Mitchell's idiosyncrasies and outright gaffes (who am I kidding?).

For better or for worse, these years will be inextricably bound to me forever. Along with these years there have been relationships born out of adversity, conflict, and most importantly, proximity. I have not come across anything like it. I guess this is the one thing law school has given me that cannot be taught, bought, nor sold: the opportunity to meet diverse and unique people under common circumstances, students and teachers alike (although some students & profs truly sucked. You know who you are.) I thank you for being friends of mine and for being the people who you are. Do I love everyone? NO. However, I do respect all that have entered these doors and have not walked over and around people. Truth be told, I've learned more about people than I have learned about the law. I've also learned more law from people rather than books. Not because Mitchell didn't provide me the resources for the latter. Rather, it was of my own doing. In the end, that to me is what makes Mitchell a great school.

It's Not the tradition or name recognition (duh). Rather, it is the opportunity to shape your experience to suit your wants and needs. How does it do this you may ask? Simply put, Mitchell gave me the opportunity to work and meet people inside and outside of school within the context of law. The real deal, not just black letter crap. In the past, this founding school principle allowed people to better themselves by learning the legal profession at night while they funded it during the day with other occupations. Mitchell has never been or will be a traditional law school. Sadly, the administration has chosen to chip away at this pillar of its constitution. flexibility. Oh well, they won't have me to kick around anymore. I truly hope the administration stops to realize that name recognition will never come to our school in the form of tradition. It 'will come in the form of flexibility of curriculum as applied to actual practice. Maybe in time (I doubt it since Harvard, Yale, etc ... will always be around) excellence won't have to rely on tradition, but rather on the reality of giving students practical skills they choose to obtain (as Mitchell is doing now, but needs to continue to forge ahead with).

To me, the law is about people. Why and how people do the things they do. Logical or illogical. As flaky as this may sound, this is the way I have shaped my law school experience to be. So I guess my full

answer of why I went to law school is: "because I like people and was interested in the law." If I can help make a difference in the lives of both people I know and don't know with this J.D., screw it, that to me is worth more than the \$60k investment I made. In closing, I know I haven't changed, but I know I'm not the same (thanks Jakob D.). I did it my way (love ya' ol' blue eyes). You using the whole fist doc? (Thanks Mitchell). Later On. P.S. see you at Changs.

My congrats to: griff, jaybird, smokey, cherieT, Fitzzy, Jess, kaz, fuges, d. rex, etz, fields, manvir, donut, Mrs. phil, Plitz, b-alex, Mr. stute, sugar, mas, arne, skuby, CB, daddy-mack, v-mac, Dan-yell, CNL, sara sane, KC, btb, et, and Mr. maravigli. (yes, how high-schoolish)

REPORT FROM SABBATICAL

By Eric S. Janus

Retreat, return, write, simplify--those are the themes of my sabbatical year.

William Mitchell, like many academic institutions, allows sabbaticals for its faculty. Once every seven years a faculty member may apply for a semester or a year off. Approval is based on the sabbatical plan for professional development. On a full-year sabbatical, a faculty member receives half pay.

I had been working straight for 23 years--11 as a lawyer at Minneapolis Legal Aid, and then, since 1984, as a teacher at WMCL. Despite my 12 years at WMCL I had not taken a sabbatical. Finally, the time seemed right. Our older child had graduated from college and our younger had just started. Former Dean Hogg and the Board of Trustees approved my sabbatical for the full 1996 calendar year.

My plan for sabbatical was to write. I had been working for several years on a number of law review articles, but they never seemed to get finished--just longer. A key to the plan was to get away--to "retreat" from the obligations and routines of our normal lives. My wife Carolyn Chalmers, a lawyer/consultant in employment and academic matters, could structure her work so that we could be abroad for a number of months.

We decided that we would go to Turkey to spend four months of the sabbatical. I had spent two years in Turkey in the late 60's in the Peace Corps. I served as a teacher in a public school in the southeastern Turkish city of Diyarbakir. They had been formative years. Both Carolyn and I have loved the Mediterranean region on subsequent visits to Greece and France. We began our planning by posting notices on the Internet seeking information about rental housing in the Mediterranean region of Turkey. We settled on a half dozen prospective places to live. Next, we bought or refurbished a couple of old computers, which we gave to our elderly parents, so that we could keep in touch with them while we were away by email.

I spent the first two months of my sabbatical preparing to go. I loaded as much information as I could into my laptop computer. This included scores of reference articles, all of my notes, and the full transcripts and all of the relevant pleadings from a case that I was in the middle of working on, In re Linehan.

We headed off for Turkey in mid-March, full of a sense of adventure. Turkey is an ancient land that has been on the crossroads of civilizations for thousands of years. It is full of history, with sites dating to pre-classical times, some of the most exquisite Greek and Roman ruins, beautiful buildings and art from the Byzantine Empire, ruined castles from the Crusades, mosques and bridges from the Seljuk Turks, a rich

history from the Ottoman Empire, and an amazing transformation into a secular republic under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk during this century. Turkish culture places a high value on civility, family, honesty and hospitality. Turkish cuisine and cooking (as exemplars of the more general cooking of the Middle East) are among the greatest in the world, emphasizing freshness and simplicity.

We rented one of the houses that had come to us over the Internet, a five bedroom, airy house with terraces and balconies. Located in Koycegiz, a town of 9000, the house looked over Lake Koycegiz, two kilometers to the south, and the Taurus Mountains to the north. The lake is connected by a 20 km natural channel to the Mediterranean. There we stayed for two months.

Our days were very simple. Go to the neighborhood bakery in the morning for fresh bread (about 10 cents a loaf) cooked in a wood-burning oven. Breakfast of yogurt (from the neighboring "yogurt-house"), local "pine" honey (made from bees living among pine trees), the best figs you can imagine, olives, feta cheese, Turkish coffee made in a make-shift drip pot. Then we both wrote for several hours. Then a run through the olive groves north of the town. Lunch and more writing. In the afternoon, a walk into the center of the town (2 kms) to buy some fish at the fish store (a variety: sometimes trout, sometimes "sardines", sometimes a delicious fish called chopra) or meat at the butcher (mostly lamb or chicken), a stop at the newspaper store to get the English language Turkish Daily News. A simple dinner, perhaps grilled over charcoal, with Turkish wine. Then some more writing, and finally, at 9 p.m. our daily sign-on to the Internet to collect and send our mail.

Despite the distance, we were in good touch with family and friends through the Internet. Carolyn wrote a long and thoughtful letter each day about our lives-these developed into travel essays. We received letters with some frequency from family and friends-and sat and read them out loud to each other with great pleasure. Then reading, then bed.

After two months, we moved to a village in the hills near the Aegean coast, not far from Troy and Cannakkale, near the westernmost point in Asia. While our Koycegiz house had been in a well-to-do neighborhood, this village home was in "down in the luck village" whose young people were moving to the town. Owned by an Istanbuler, the house had been nicely fixed up, and had a patio overlooking a valley planted with olive trees. Our neighbors were illiterate farmers in their 60's. We learned the meaning of exchange from them. Beyasah brought over a dish of olives from her groves. We returned it with stuffed grape leaves. She returned two plates, one with olives, one with plums from their tree. We returned those with cheese and figs. The pace picked up. As the "host," she could not fall behind. Finally, as we were preparing to leave for home, we gave Beyasah and her husband our left-over medications. This was too much, and prompted a delivery of olive oil, a jar of black olives, and a jar of green. It hurt us - and her - that we were unable to take the olive oil, for fear that it would spill on the way home.

The sabbatical time in Turkey was extremely productive. I finished three law review articles (one has been published in *Indiana Law Review*, a second is coming shortly in *Stanford Law and Policy Review*, and the third will be published in *Psychology, Public Policy and Law*), and co-wrote four supreme court briefs in the Linehan case.

[A Look \(South\) West to West Publishing](#)

by Michael Ravnitzky

I recently had the opportunity to take a tour of West Publishing in Eagan, and I'd like to share my travelogue with you. Last Tuesday, I pulled off Highway 149 near Yankee Doodle Road at the West headquarters, signed in at the security desk, and was promptly met by my guide, Scott Duckson, in Corporate Communications. It's hard not to be impressed by the sheer scale of the place. The buildings occupy 65 acres. (The Mall of America is 75 acres, so think of the Mall without the roller coaster ride.) The facility has 2.5 million square feet, as compared with the 1 million square feet of the IDS building. The main building is six floors high and has been in operation since 1993, but the manufacturing facility has been there since the early 1980's. The Customer Service Department is the size of a football field, with hundreds of cubicles. There are over 400 people answering phone calls and e-mail from customers, about 300 responding to computer (i.e. Westlaw) questions and about 100 handling book-related inquiries in another part of the building. Although most of the questions focus on how to conduct searches, there are some customers at smaller firms who pose questions that are more reference oriented.

Most of the people who help answer the questions are attorneys. Apart from the U.S. Federal Government, West is probably the single largest employer of attorneys in the world. Out of 5500 West Group employees in Eagan, a little under 1000 are attorneys. There are another couple of thousand employees located elsewhere.

As we walked through Customer Service, I noticed the new products section. Between West and Thomson (a large Canadian firm which recently purchased West), the West Group publishes 3800 products. Next we strolled through the case processing section. Again, in this section, there were rows and rows of desks and cubicles. West receives cases from about 600 courts each day, both "published" and "unpublished." Although courts sometimes lag the rest of the country on the information superhighway, about 80% of them submit decisions electronically by telephone line. I watched these cases rolling unceasingly out of some laser printers. The U.S. Supreme Court has a special project going called HERMES, which downloads Supreme Court decisions via satellite dish to West within 20 minutes of the time that they are completed. The text of the decisions are put on-line immediately, and thus customers can gain access right away. Later, the Supreme Court decisions, like other cases, are run through the thirty-two editorial processing steps for publication on-line and in advance sheets. These steps include things such as adding headnotes, adding cases and data links for Auto-Cite and Insta-Cite on-line citation services, proofreading, and so on. Each step, such as writing a headnote, is itself a complex process.

It takes five years for an employee to gain enough experience to write a headnote. In some cases, decisions are sent back to judges or courts for corrections if there are errors or questions. But the flow of cases never ceases, nor the demand for rapid access by customers; the turnaround time for a case is very short, only about 36 hours.

I then walked through one of the three cafeterias at West. This particular cafeteria seats 1400 people, and it looked very state-of-the-art. On the way in to the cafeteria were a row of movie posters, with a sign that read: "West In the Movies." Many films, including those with legal scenes or courtroom action, use props supplied by West. These include shelves of legal reporters, online screens, or other products. There was even a movie poster from a movie to be released soon called Murder at 1600. With the proliferation of television shows and movies with legal plots involving legal matters, such as L.A. "Law, Murder One, Feds, The Practice, and so on, producers and writers call West for ideas on scripting and

real cases to put into the plot. Screenwriters often ask "What areas of law are hot right now?" and then ask for background legal information on that topic. West obliges with suggestions and is then the recipient of free product placement in the background of many scenes. What do the producers do with all those law books when they're done with the production? Apparently they either return them to West or put them into their "property" (prop) storage for the next time they need to recreate a law office.

After leaving the cafeteria, we went into the advertising department and their photo studio. This large photo studio is equipped with digital cameras connected with computer photo layout. One photographer had a project underway in which he was digitally photographing a West product. The images appeared on the computer monitor, and he immediately started moving the images around on the screen, changing the colors, and so on. West used to do a lot of multimedia video projects in-house, but found that it was cheaper to outsource them to other companies.

Although West is probably the largest publisher in Minnesota, producing 65 million books each year with 25 billion pages, the company leads the industry in minimization of chemical usage and prevention of environmental releases. As I walked through the offset printing areas, there wasn't a very strong chemical smell, at least as much as you'd expect in such a large printing facility. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Emergency Management Commission, West is one of the top rated companies with regard to minimization of pollution. They have to be; West is located in the midst of a residential neighborhood.

In the next area I saw the printing of advance sheets. These advance sheets are the first printed announcement of cases, and each advance sheet has its own paper binder. When enough pages accumulate from the advance sheets printed for a jurisdiction, West republishes those into a bound volume, one of the "reporters." The advantage of this system is twofold: customers get the case information in print right away, and West is able to correct any problems or errors before the advance sheets become the printed volume of the reporter.

West uses direct to plate printing. The images are etched by laser beam directly on the aluminum plates and no film is used, which saves a lot of chemicals. Normal photographic film contains silver, which has to be reclaimed after use, so this laser etching process is extremely cost-effective. I walked through the part of the building in which this process is done, into the paper storage area.

Imagine thousands of huge rolls of paper in a gymnasium sized room, stacked up to the ceiling, looking much like Brobdingnagian rolls of toilet paper. Each roll contains twelve miles of paper. These rolls are brought in by railroad from Canada, Wisconsin and New York. West uses a higher quality of paper than the paper you'd see in newspapers, or even most books.

There are eight different types of bindings, from a simple glued binding all the way up to a sewn binding, even a superstrength binding for textbooks used in elementary and high schools. Because schoolbooks take a lot of pounding and the schools can only purchase new books every six years, West developed a special binding that uses both side sewing and gluing for maximum strength.

I walked into the large area in which the presses were printing covers for the advance sheets. There were rows of multicolor sheetfed presses for marketing pieces, and rows of two color presses for the advance sheet covers. The paper is a special clay-coated paper which doesn't allow the ink to spread out, so the resolution is excellent. We then went into a massive room for the roll printing of the books.

The rows of paper rolls were all lined up, ready to be placed into the presses. The noise was deafening. We watched the "web" of paper whizzing around a complex series of rolls and printing and thermal drying at a rate of 1300 feet per minute, about 22 feet per second. The machine also cuts and folds and binds. We took a section hot off the press. It was Rule 4 of the new edition of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In the next room, equally huge, there were pallets and pallets of "signatures," sections of a book, which would be collated into books within the next 48 hours.

All the "edge trim" waste paper cut from the edges of each book signature (and there's a ton of it) is vacuumed away and blown into a room in which it is compressed and baled like giant bales of white hay. The paper is valuable because it doesn't contain any ink, and is trucked back to the paper mills to be used for recycled paper products, saving 300,000 trees per year. At the end of the room, we saw the baling of shredded paper, and the recycling of the plastic strapping used for the paper rolls. Even the plywood cores used at the center of the paper rolls are sent back to the paper mills for reuse.

Next came the bindery department, an extremely large room used for binding together the books. On one side were some machines that collated the signatures, up to 3000 copies per hour which were fed from the top by large hoppers. The machine grabs one signature from each hopper and binds it at the end of the line. Every time a machine stops, a bell rings. It sounded like a casino slots operation. Rows of giant collating and binding machines ringed the room. Surprisingly, some of the binding machines were rather old; binding technology apparently has not advanced much in the last few decades. One area still done by hand is the cutting of index marks (the fingernail size indentations on the edge of some books). Most books only have a couple of indentations, but Black's Law Dictionary is the toughest to do; there are 17 separate index cuts, and the marks are fairly small because employees glue the letters "A" through "Z" onto the edge of the index marks.

West is one of the largest mailers in the state, perhaps the largest, so there's a postal inspector stationed on site, and both UPS and the Post Office have bulk mailing centers nearby. There was an automatic stamping and addressing machine spitting out thousands of bills and invoices. The shipping room was filled with hundreds of containers of material. Everything is bulk-shipped and separated at or near the destination by UPS.

I walked past one room which was dedicated to CD-ROM manufacturing. This hermetically sealed glass room was a "clean room" because of the manufacturing requirements; employees wore protective suits to keep dirt from entering the equipment. The facility is small but state-of-the-art, it can produce a CD-ROM every six seconds. The new CD-ROM technology on Premise 3.0 (West's new CD product) will allow 80% more material on one disk. The next generation technology is called DVD (digital video disk), which will allow four times as much information on a single CD, or about two million pages. The next room down was where employees collated small orders for libraries and law firms. From the orders, you can get a sense of which types of litigation that firm or attorney is becoming involved in. I asked whether firms purchase old volumes of reporters, and learned that following natural disasters, fires, floods and the like, many organizations need to replace their books. Some firms opt to use CD's, but many attorneys prefer to have the books at hand, or at the very least for show on their shelves. All the forklifts in the facility have bar-code readers to track inventory; there isn't any paper used.

West actually has an inventory of mint copies of its very earliest published volumes stored in acid-free boxes, and they're available for sale! Imagine a huge hall, filled with shelves up to the roof, each box within each shelf allocated to a particular volume of a particular reporter or other book. This is just the

stock for filling orders. There are boxes of similar inventory in another area. Many of the reporters were printed twenty or thirty years ago and are still "in print." That's because most of the cost of printing a book is the setup; once the presses are running, you can't stop them until you're done printing. Among the other things I learned was that West just started up Mex-Law, a collection of Mexican law in the Spanish language. The growth area right now is in Europe, to publish materials relating to European Law. West has a large customer base in other countries which purchase American Law materials, particularly in Japan.

We walked to the front desk, where West has a mini-museum for the company, including old equipment, books, and some really interesting photos of their early headquarters. Apparently, the old West Publishing Building was their second headquarters, and that was cobbled together from a number of separate buildings that were connected. The early headquarters on Kellogg Blvd. even had a separate attached "men's club" where employees could venture to shoot pool or smoke a cigar on their lunch break or after hours. If you ever get the opportunity to take a tour of West Publishing, I think you'd find it worthwhile.

[William Mitchell's Women's Basketball team are Champs of Concordia's Intramural League](#)

By Shayne Hamann

How well a basketball team fares depends on how the individual talents blend together into a cohesive unit. This statement was definitely realized by William Mitchell's Intramural Women's Basketball Team on February 25, 1997 when they captured the Concordia College Intramural Women's Basketball Championship at Gangelhoff Sports Pavilion.

The team consisted of IL Michelle Mitchell, 2L's Crystal Connor, Stephanie Dancik, and Shayne Hamann and 3L Ranelle Leier. The team also had significant help from Dancik's sister Denise and Mitchell's sister Christine. This particular women's team had no uniform and its name references the law school at which the "Iron Five" have spent countless hours while obtaining their J.D.'s. This team played tenacious defense and had no set offense other than to pass the ball around and find the open player. There was also no star on this team, but rather these women knew how to play together and recognized each other's strengths as well as weaknesses. They were all unselfish, passed up open shots to give the ball to a teammate closer to the basket, shared words of encouragement and support through good plays and bad ones too.

At times these five girls were a lot smaller and not quite as rough and tough as other teams, but the team always played with dedication, determination and desire. Evidence of this was witnessed when Connor apparently twisted her ankle but continued to play because the team only had five players. Even though she was present on the floor the rest of the team picked up the intensity and pulled together to make her job easier. Medical evidence (yes, we do have a medical expert) later proved that Connor had in fact fractured her foot in two different places. The morale of the story here is: do not play if you can sort of walk or run, because it probably means that you did not sprain your ankle, but in fact fractured your foot.

Another interesting thing this team realized is that it really is hard to argue with the judges (referees) in a game of basketball. Usually, every game or two, and sometimes more, each one of the "Iron-Five" would seem to take turns making objections to the judges calls and decisions. However, this team got

their objections sustained when they really needed to count. I guess that is probably how it should turn out in a court of law, too.

Mitchell's women's team rose through the tournament brackets with a blaze of fire and entered the Championship game with an 8-2 record, losing to a team early in January and then again in mid-February. The championship game was bitter sweet, though, because William Mitchell was able to avenge its mid-February loss to "The Player " in the championship game by beating them by over 20 points. This game was different than the team's first encounter. William Mitchell came out to a firing start and was up by 16 points at half-time. The Players pulled it to within 6 at one point in the second half, but William Mitchell then went on a 16-0 run and never looked back. The saying that victory always goes to those who are the most persevering was truly realized on February 25; the William Mitchell's Women's Basketball Team sure set the standard.

WELCOME MARGARET

By Michael P. Gibbons

Margaret Thatcher is coming to Minnesota. She will be addressing the annual dinner of an organization called the Center for the American Experiment at the Minneapolis Convention Center on May 9th. The event is from 6 -9 PM. Unfortunately there are no more tickets available. This however should not prevent people from "welcoming" her here.

I don't know much about this group, but as a proud American, I am offended by this woman. If you are offended by this woman, I invite you to join me at the Convention Center on the afternoon of May 9th. If she does not offend you, I invite you to read on and then consider joining me and others at this event. If you object to foreign involvement in U.S. elections you should come. The Chinese are getting the current headlines for involvement in US elections, but the British have been doing this for years. If you think US foreign policy should be made at the White House, instead of 10 Downing Street you should come. Here is an example.

The US has extradition treaties with 100+ foreign countries. All but one allow the US to protect political refugees from being returned to the country they have fled. Joe Doherty and Jimmy Smyth committed no crimes against our country. Because of this treaty, however, they were forced to do time in US jails and then were sent back to the country that they fled for political reasons: Currently, three other men face this prospect as well -Kevin Artt, Pol Brennan and Terry Kirby.

Additionally, if you doubt British influence in U.S. foreign policy examine Anthony Lake's "confirmation" proceedings. If you pay federal income taxes you should be there. A tax-exempt "foundation" bears Margaret's name. It spreads highly political messages, supports highly political objectives, does not account for its contributions and expenses, and due to its tax-exempt status is effectively subsidized by anyone who pays U.S. taxes.

Mrs. Thatcher's record in her dealings with Ireland during her years as Prime Minister is simply astounding. Several examples were mentioned in the Fall issue of "The Opinion" (page 8). Further examples could take up volumes of books, and in fact they do. Several of these books have been compiled by Amnesty International. Her appearance here will be just days after the 16th anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands, MP. She objected to many things about this man, including his election to Her Parliament, so she changed the rules to make sure no one like him could be elected again. Then she let

him die a slow and painful death which she could -have prevented. He died on May 5, 1981, and in just over two weeks three more, Frank Hughes, Ray McCreech and Patsy O'Hara, also died. Her appearance in this country is an insult to anyone of Irish descent. For this to take place in May is even more egregious. I encourage anyone who celebrated being Irish on St. Patrick's Day to participate anybody who wore green on March 17th, anyone who went to the Cathedral for Mass that morning, or anyone who celebrated at the other "chapels" around town that evening. May 9th is an important day to stand up for Ireland and America.

SOYAPANGO, EL SALVADOR: William Mitchell Students' Donations Delivered to Women's Prison

By Julie Duckstad

Thank you all, especially the Women's Law Caucus, for the donations for the Women's Prison in El Salvador. Professor Steenson and other participants of the Legal Justice Exchange delivered the donations to the Women's Prison in Soyapango, El Salvador, on March 7, 1997 (the day before Women's International Day, March 8, 1997). Professor Steenson took photographs of the prison visit. He also noted the following about the visit:

We went to the women's prison at Soyapango on Friday, March 7, in the morning. We had a box full of the students' donations as well as some medications that I added, along with stuffed animals for the children.

The director was not present at the time, but her assistant was. We met several members of the professional staff, talked awhile, and then got a brief tour of the prison, including the nursery. There are close to forty women there, including pregnant women.

After the tour we went back to the director's office. The staff had arranged to bring in four of the prisoners to receive the donation. They were dressed in their best clothes. They were so excited as they looked in the box. It was like Christmas for them. They sat down and we talked about their circumstances. Three of the women spoke very candidly. Their stories are similar, best illustrated by one woman's situation. She has been in the prison for a year and a half, has been through eight lawyers, and still does not know the exact nature of the charges against her. She thinks it is a bad check charge, but she does not know the details. The lawyers there are likely to tell -their clients that additional charges have been filed in order to increase their fee. This woman told us that after her friends and family raised money to pay the eight lawyers she had, she has no more resources. She didn't seem bitter about it, but accepting. They have an ombudsman there who tries to deal with these issues, but she seems overloaded.

They provided us with lunch, of course, and we talked as we ate. It was an informative visit. We met the director on the way out. She had been at a meeting and was unable to welcome us when we arrived. She wanted to know when we would come back.

They greatly appreciated the donation of the students. I hope that we can do something similar again. God knows they need all the help they can get. They have virtually nothing.

Images

Photo of prison staff look on as four women inmates open the box filled with student donations and stuffed animals for the children.

Photo of Professor Michael Steenson and Judge Richard Hopper (back), with prison staff, the Dean of ULAES Law School, the director and assistant director of the prison.

DELTA THETA PHI TALENT SHOW A HUGE SUCCESS

By Kathy Samsa

On Saturday, February 22, 1997 Delta Theta Phi sponsored its annual talent show to benefit the WMCL Child Care Center. Over 200 people were in attendance and watched the students, faculty, and staff impress and amaze with their varied gifts.

First prize in the student division went to bagpiper Ted McBride. Danielle Satterfield took second prize for her amazing performance of "Amazing Grace." First prize in the faculty/staff division was awarded to Gina Sauer, Mitch Thompson and anonymous friend for their rendition of the B-52's "Loveshack." Second prize was awarded to "Intentional Torts," Professor Erlinder and Professor Schaumann's band.

Delta Theta Phi thanks all those who made the talent show possible. Special thanks to the members of DTP who busted their butts to make this show possible -you know who you are. We appreciate everyone's support, and so do the children at the child care center: A check from Delta Theta Phi in the amount of \$1950 will be delivered shortly. Thank you! Delta Theta Phi will be holding two short informational meetings on Wednesday April 9, 12-12:30PM and Thursday, April 10, 6:30-7:00PM. Both meetings will be in room 112. Anyone interested in becoming a member of Delta Theta Phi is welcome. Pizza and pop will be provided!

Images

Photo of Dean of Students Jim Brooks et al., impressing those in attendance with their clogging prowess at the Delta Theta Phi talent show.

Delta Theta Phi members selling popcorn and pop to daycare students, parents, WMCL students and others in a successful effort to raise money for the WMCL childcare center.

Opinions. Everyone's Got One. What's Yours?

The Opinion

WMCL First School With Free VersusLaw Access

by Michael Ravnitzky and Charles Gerlach

William Mitchell College of Law is the very first law school in the nation with free access to VersusLaw, an Internet-based case law search engine database. William D. Olson, a Section 2, 1-L, led an intensive effort in negotiating with Versuslaw for complementary school use.

Effective immediately, any William Mitchell student, faculty member or library staff member may use VersusLaw at no cost. This database includes state and federal caselaw back to 1950, and uses full-text boolean (term) searching. A one-time registration procedure is required at the time of a person's first use. Commercial rates run \$14.95 for a 24 hour day of unlimited searching.

The Versuslaw site can be reached at <http://www.versuslaw.com/law/school.html>.

Olson spent time 'surfing' the Net for legal sites. He became interested in VersusLaw while the site was still in its infancy. After exploring VersusLaw's site, Olson e-mailed the company and eventually talked to VersusLaw over the telephone about legal education access. According to Olson, the company had not yet considered law students use of their product.

Olson plans to focus his legal education and career on the legal issues concerning the Internet, its technology, and applications. He spends considerable time learning what is-out there. He even has his own web site.

Olson also has been assisting William Mitchell in its technology drive by serving on the Technology Committee with Professors Goldberg, Hogg and Oliphant. The Committee is responsible for the school's new home page on the Internet: Professor Goldberg believes students will benefit from learning about all the legal research resources available as many smaller firms and organizations will not have access to Lexis and Westlaw, or even their CD-ROM based products.

TIPS Update

By Matthew F. Virnig

This past year I have been serving the Law Student Division of the ABA as the National liaison to the Tort and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS). At the beginning of February I was in San Antonio, Texas at the ABA's Midyear Meeting. Several projects which I have been working on for months came together at this meeting. Here is an excerpt from the TIPS law student newsletter which I write for all the student members of the Section:

TIPS CAREER PANEL AT ANNUAL MEETING -TIPS will be hosting a panel discussion for the Law Student Division at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco this year. The panel will be held on Saturday, August 2nd from 11:30A.M. to 1:00P.M. at one of the Law Student Division hotels (to be determined). Several attorneys from various committees have generously agreed to donate their time to speak to law students about hot topics in tort and insurance law. The panel will feature speakers from several TIPS committees including Sports Law, Aviation and Space Law, and Toxic and Hazardous Substances/Environmental Law.

These attorneys will speak on their specific area of expertise and on how diverse practice areas come together in the Tort and Insurance Practice Section. Hopefully we'll all go away with a feel for how section membership can be a great benefit to our legal careers. There will be ample opportunity to ask questions and, thanks to the generosity of TIPS, a FREE LUNCH! I hope you all can make it to the Annual Meeting to attend this function!

NATIONAL APPELLATE ADVOCACY COMPETITION FUNDING -At the ABA Midyear Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, TIPS Council generously granted the LSD's National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC) \$10,000 and committed the Section to as many judges as it can provide. NAAC is a Competition in which over 120 teams from schools across the USA participate. This is a big commitment on the part of TIPS and shows just how enthusiastic the Section is to bettering its relationship with law students. TIPS really sees that we, as law students, represent the future of the ABA. Because of this funding, each NAAC competitor gains the benefit of reduced competition fees and becomes a TIPS law student

member! Hopefully this is only the start of a cooperative effort between the LSD and TIPS that will benefit both organizations greatly.

NEW TIPS LIAISONS -Starting this spring, TIPS will welcome three new law students into the activities of the Section as fully funded law student liaisons to three of TIPS' 36 committees. Specifically, students (who are appointed jointly by LSD and TIPS leadership) will serve on the Law and Public Service Committee; the Membership Committee; and the Long Range Planning Committee. I am truly excited about this development because it means a closer relationship between TIPS and the LSD. There will also continue to be a law student serving as the liaison to TIPS Council (my current position). This commitment on the part of TIPS is due in large part to the dynamic leadership of Chair-elect Dianne Dailey. She has been a very positive voice in TIPS on behalf of strategic alliances with law students. These new liaisons are sure to enjoy their positions as much as I have enjoyed mine!

RESUME CLEARINGHOUSE -TIPS is still accepting resumes for its Resume Clearinghouse. Would you like your resume to be compiled in a book, along with the resumes of other interested TIPS law student members, and distributed to TIPS members at the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco in August of 1997? This is an ideal way to target tort and insurance attorneys. Please send your resume to: Resume Clearinghouse, c/o Wanda Workman Tort and Insurance Practice Section American Bar Association, 750 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611. If you are a member of the ABA/LSD and have not joined a section yet, now is the time to do so. For as little as \$5 a year you can join a great section like TIPS and receive all the publications the section puts out!

[William Mitchell's VITA Program A Big Success](#)

By Kelly Schendel, WMCL ABA/LSD Representative

The William Mitchell ABNLSD Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program has gotten off to an unbelievable start! This is the very first year our school has had its own site and the response has been overwhelming. VITA is an ABNLSD-coordinated program by which law schools around the country benefit their communities by helping people fill out their tax forms. The service is most beneficial to those people in our community who are poor or uneducated. VITA allows law students the chance to give to the community some small portion of the benefit of our law school education.

To set the program up, I first contacted an IRS employee in the taxpayer education department who was happy to come out and explain what VITA is. At informational meetings the IRS employee let the volunteers know about the self-tests and that there would be training sessions the following week. Around 2025 people attended these training sessions. Basically, the sessions were held in order to work on the test and to get specific questions answered before volunteers helped actual clients. Many students commented on how helpful these training sessions were.

While the volunteers were preparing, we organized our site --The Salvation Army on West 7th in St. Paul. The director of the Salvation Army was very supportive and helpful. He and his staff did virtually all the advertising. The facility is clean and quiet and is on several bus lines. I decided to book appointments rather than do walk-ins. I found this to be very successful because volunteers were not just sitting around getting frustrated.

Our first two sessions were completely booked and we even found time for a few walk-ins. We booked one hour appointments which gave volunteers enough time to fill out the return, double-check it, and

make necessary copies. This time was important especially for inexperienced tax volunteers. We provided the volunteers with a small snack or beverage during their scheduled times. This created a casual atmosphere which encouraged some volunteers to stay longer! I believe that we discovered a need in the area that no one knew existed! The whole operation was a success and we hope that even more students will participate next year. P.S. By the way, our school is winning the national ABA/LSD membership challenge!! This year 259 new members have already signed up!

As the Bear Gently Sleeps

By David Meizenburg

What is this news about the Dow Jones breaking the 6000 mark in October or 7000 in February? Should I be investing during this "bullish" period, and if I do, how long can I expect this market to keep rising? Could the stock market be overvalued? If it is, are we heading for a price correction or could the market just crash? It certainly may seem that way with the Dow Jones Industrial falling 160.48 points on March 13, 1997 -the fifth steepest drop on record.

This article is directed to those who may view the market as a possible investment opportunity. I believe that a historical approach to market highs and lows can shed some light on the factors that cause market declines and crashes, therefore giving future investors some degree of predictability.

Since the Civil War, there have been three major long-term advances or secular bull (upward price movements) markets in stocks. The first, the Industrial bull, began in 1877 and ended in 1929. This period saw the introduction of electrical power, advances in manufacturing, and the railroad system. The second secular bull market, the Consumer bull, began in 1932 and ended in 1968. Examples of the consumerism seen in this period included the advancement of automobiles and the popularization of fast food, television and the expansion of our interstate highway system. The third secular bull market, the Technology bull, began in 1974 and is still in progress. Examples of the technological advances which the market has responded to so far include the introduction of cellular phones, pagers, genetic engineering and the exponential growth of the Internet.

Using the Industrial and Consumer bull markets as a track record, many strategists use important changes in commodity prices, interest rates and bond yields to indicate where we are in the current bull market. Significant lows in these markets reflect a major turn upwards in the stock market. The two previous cycles suggests that a long continuation of the bull market should follow since commodity prices, interest rates and bond yields are low.

Mark Arbeter of Waterhouse Securities in New York views the future a bit differently. He states, although the fundamental underpinnings of this bull market remain intact, [recent data continues to indicate that inflation is under control] growth is not accelerating. In November, retail spending was off 0.4%, unemployment edged up 0.2%, and the CPI (consumer price index) was up only 0.3%. I doubt that the market will register a third consecutive year of double-digit gains in 1997. Instead, I believe the S&P 500 will post a slight decline during the first half of 1997, but will recover to finish the year only 6% above its current level (ave. 12.6%).

It is often alleged that stock market peaks are preceded by grossly overvalued speculative bubbles that are designed to fall. Further, it is commonly assumed that statistical benchmarks, such as dividend yields and/or price/earnings ratios, provide warnings of overvaluation and, therefore, secular market peaks.

Many feel that this irrational exuberance (words uttered on Dec. 6 and Feb. 25 by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan) in stock prices explain today's market. Again, history has shown that reliance on valuation benchmarks based on previous historical extremes can be a mistake. For example, in 1955, the Dow reached levels comparable to those reached in 1929, leading some to conclude it was time to exit the stock market because the "real" (inflation-adjusted) market had peaked. However, those who did missed another 13 years of the bull market and the "real Dow" that exceeded the 1929 peak by more than 50%. Simply put, valuation measures do not give clues to a coming market decline.

If we can not predict a continuing rise of the market, can we as future investors predict its decline? While there are no set formulas, we can examine the peaks of 1929, the late 1960s and the peak just before the 1987 crash and identify three major influences.

Short-term curtailments of monetary liquidity usually cause cyclical corrections. In other words, it stands to reason that a similar circumstance (on a grander scale) could be true for major peaks. A look at the situations in the 1920s, 1960s and 1980s shows Federal Reserve monetary policy and anticipations of that policy played a major role in the down-moves that occurred after the peaks.

Domestic and international governmental interferences can also affect market action. During the 1920s the Hoover Administration was concerned about stock market speculation. Confidence in the stock market was weakened thanks to anticipation of unfriendly policy action by the Federal Reserve once Hoover was elected in 1928. Later, the Fed's failure to support the banking system in the early 1930's added to the problem.

In the 1960s, the threat came from government attempts to provide "guns and butter" by financing the Vietnam War and the Great Society without commensurate tax increases. These events contributed to a loss of confidence by the markets. Adding to this loss of confidence was the government's unwillingness to fight inflation.

In 1987, the market was demoralized by proposed legislation to lessen incentives for leveraged buyouts and the threat of a currency war with West Germany.

Shifts in the economic and financial environment can increase the attractiveness of investments that are considered alternatives to stocks, thereby leading to a decline in the stock market. In the 1930s, the decline in real and financial assets made cash a preferred alternative. Public concerns about access to bank deposits, combined with the Fed's failure to support the banking system, accelerated this perception.

In the 1960s and 1970s, real assets (real estate, gold and raw materials) were the investment alternatives of choice, as they were all considered hedges against growing inflation.

As for October 19, 1987; the rapidity of the 508 point crash in the Dow makes it difficult to identify an asset class that rapidly emerged as an investment alternative. But the sharp decline in long-term interest rate would imply that bonds were a likely candidate.

Where do we stand right now? According to Bruce Steinberg of Merrill Lynch in New York, consumer confidence in the stock market is high because of a vibrant job market. The Labor Department said new claims for unemployment benefits fell by 5,000 last week to 307,000, the lowest level in more than two years.

In conclusion, it is this authors opinion that current circumstances do not present a threat from any of the three major conditions that have toppled markets in the past. If these conditions remain absent, analysis suggests any market correction in this year would be a normal pause in an ongoing bull market - not a secular market peak. As a result, stock market corrections in the period ahead should be viewed by long-term investors as buying opportunities. Based on this, the Technology bull market in stocks could go much higher allowing young investors years of continued growth.

Like to give a special thanks to the brokers of Waterhouse Securities, Merrill Lynch and A.G. Edwards for their contribution of literature and personal insight.

[PLEASE, WE BEG YOU, SHOW US YOUR MONEY](#)

By Kathy Samsa

Monday, March 31, 1997 marks the kickoff for the 1997 Public Interest Law Fellow hip (PILF) silent auction. The silent auction is sponsored by the William Mitchell chapter of the Minnesota Justice Foundation, with the proceeds used to fund summer clerkships for William Mitchell students. Five students have created proposals for a summer clerkship in the public interest field and it's up to the WMCL students to determine which proposal(s) will be funded. Each person who bids on a prize will not only have the chance to win a great prize, but will also be able to vote for the proposal they like the best.

A partial list of items to be auctioned:

- Two tickets to a Viking game, donated by Professor C.P. Jones
- Lunch for two with Professors Knapp and Roy
- A home-cooked Turkish meal for four from Professor Janus
- A deluxe edition Black Dictionary from West Publishing
- Guthrie Theatre tickets -Two bottles of wine from Professor Hogg's private liar
- Full BarBri and West Bar Review course
- Many, many more fantastic prizes

Tabling begins in Hachey Common at 4: 15 p.m. on Monday, March 31 and ends at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11. If you have any questions, please call Brenda Bauer. 822-4088 or Rachel Sauter. 772-1347.

[Two-time Client Counseling Champs](#)

Images

Third-year students Janet Anderson and Kristi Angus, pictured with advisor Curt Stine, won the WMCL Client Counseling competition and represented WMCL at regional competition.

[Military ads discriminate against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered individuals](#)

By the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Student Association

In the last issue of the Opinion, a full page ad was run announcing the financial benefits of the student loan repayment program of the United States Military. The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender

Student Association objects to the ad because it violates William Mitchell's policy against discrimination based on sexual orientation. William Mitchell Student Handbook 38-41. The ad states that the Army will pay \$18,333.33 per 1st, 2nd and 3rd year of service. According to the ad, there is no catch.

Well, there is a catch. The ad doesn't specify that to qualify, you must be "straight" or a heterosexual, because homosexuals (including lesbians, gays, bisexuals & transgendered individuals a.k.a. "LGBT") aren't allowed into the military. The United States Military discriminates against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered individuals through it; policy dubbed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The policy is supposed to have ended the military's "witch-hunt" for homosexuals within its ranks. In addition to the First Amendment freedom of speech issues inherently maligned in this policy, the military continues its harassment of its LGBT members.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Student Association is offended because our federal tax dollars are used against us! Not only are we not allowed the \$55,000 student loan repayment, the base salary, and the veteran's loans, but we are also barred from the tax free benefits of health care (\$1620 per year for women, \$1140 per year for men), dental care (\$540 per year), housing (\$3,420 per year), and food (\$2,520 per year). That's a total of \$8,100 in free benefits a year for straight women, and \$7,620 year for straight men that join this program. Add to that 30 days paid vacation per year, free recreational facilities, and \$200,000 life insurance for only \$16 per month, and you can see the direct financial benefits that are denied to interested LGBT law students.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Student Association is particularly offended because our student tuition funds are being used to promote the anti-LGBT policies of the military through our very own student newspaper. In addition to the Opinion ad, similar posters were approved by central services and thus allowed to be placed all over campus. The Career Services Office refuses to allow the military to recruit during OCI or announce their off-campus interview times; because it violates the anti-discrimination policies of William Mitchell and the American Association of Law Schools. We objected to the posters because they effectively circumvented the ban against on-campus military recruitment activity. We are pleased that after representatives of the group met with Mr. Jim Brooks, Dean of Students and Ms. Gina Sauer, Assistant Dean for Career Services, the offensive posters were removed.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Student Association asks that members of the William Mitchell community be supportive of our efforts to eliminate homophobia and heterosexism by educating yourself on issues of discrimination. Remember, one out of every ten people is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered -it could be the person sitting in class next to you. References: Randy Shilts, *Conduct Unbecoming* (1994), Kenneth Williams, *Gays in the Military: the Legal Issues*, 28 U. S. F. L. Rev., 919 (1994), Christopher B. Turcotte, *When "Coming Out of the Closet" Means Being Tossed Out of the Military: Homosexual Discrimination in the Armed Forces*,. Seton Hall Const. L. J., 805 (1992).

It's Time to Say Goodbye and Get Off the Ride We Call Law School

By Mark Metz

Well, it's only another month or so and our journey will end. We entered with excitement, fear, and great expectations. Now we're leaving with excitement, fear, and great expectations. The difference is that we'll be travelling towards a new destination. Who knows where each of us will end up, but we'll always have one thing in common. We made it through law school. We're Mitchell grads. Napoleon Hill has said that "when a man really desires a thing so deeply that he is willing to stake his entire future on a single turn of the wheel in order to get it, he is sure to win." We desired a law degree so deeply that we staked our future on it. We're sure to win.

Come back with me when we started our journey at William Mitchell. First stop: first year. All aboard the ride we call law school. But wait, do I really want to do this! What's it going to be like? Will I survive? Where will I end up? At this point, we have all come with certain expectations and preconceived notions. But other than that we just go on what we've heard. We've heard about the horrors of law school. We've heard about the professors that would grill us into submission. We've seen the movie "Paper Chase" and wondered whether we'd be ripped to shreds. We've heard about the life long friends we'd make. We're all wondering what the next three years will be like? We figure, trying to justify being here, that we got into law school so we must be worthy. Let's give it a shot. We can always get off the ride. Plus, if we make it, we're sure to get a job at the end of this whole thing and make lots of money, right? I said, right? Hello? Why isn't any one answering me?

Next stop: legal writing. This shouldn't be that bad. We'll learn how to craft a good legal argument. I'm not being naive in thinking this, am I? Hello? Why isn't any one answering me? Let me jump ahead two years and see if I can make some sense of that class. I think looking back on it now that the driver of this ride must have been drinking the devil's nectar. Legal writing as our first introduction into law school? This probably isn't the best way to introduce new law students to their journey. I mean, why go to the tequila right away. Ease into it by shaking hands with the smooth sippin Tennessee whiskey. Hello, Mr. Daniels, is that you? You see, the best way to explain what the experience is like is in a name change. The new name of legal writing should be "Misery Awaits You." But, with misery comes company. That company is other students who we developed a kinship with and developed a close relationship with. It was nice to know others were just as jilted and bitter as we were. Actually, legal writing was our first dose of legal analysis and writing. Although it seemed like a dose of poison, it taught us we needed a lot of work on our writing. It gave us a foundation to build upon. Nonetheless, the experience was not pleasant. At times it was miserable, but we got through it. On that note, it's time to get out of this ugly scene. Whew! I sure did have some nasty flash backs there. I apologize for opening up wounds that were healing. Any way, let's get back on track. Where will this ride take us next?

Next stop: our first classes. Let me get this straight. There are assignments for the first class? But we haven't even had a class yet. Oh well, we're just here for the ride. We're in class now and we're all over prepared at this point, but can't remember the stupid facts of the case. Sorry, I have to get off track again and make an observation. There seem to be certain students who have such an urge, a desire, an insecurity in being heard that they won't stop talking in class. This detracts from a good conversation. I figure that in class it's better to keep my mouth shut and have people think I'm an idiot rather than open my mouth and confirm it.

Next stop: exams. I know I've zoomed past a lot of scenery, but you've been there and know it all too well. Let's get into what really counts. What we're judged by. No, the answer is not our character or knowledge. It's grades. Back on the ride, we're getting closer to exam time and everyone seems to be a little uptight (that's being generous). We study our ___ (sanitized for your protection) off and some people look more worn out than others. As a matter of fact, I'm ready for some to blow a gasket. This should be interesting. What's the fuss all about? Oh, no. You said that our grades will determine whether we get a job or not? Well, at least the grading system will be fair. You work hard and get the grade you deserve, right? Hello? Why isn't anyone answering me? Any way, let me see if I understand this. You're telling us we have three hours to write everything we've learned over an entire semester in something you call a blue book? Moreover, one professor is supposed to be able to read what we write? And this one person can decide from 90 plus exams that one exam is a B and another is a B-? Well, what one professor gives all Cs and another gives all Bs? That doesn't seem fair, but our naivete tells us that it'll be fair, especially since grades are anonymous. Aren't they? Hello? Why isn't anyone answering me?

Next stop: William Mitchell faces a new direction. We're going through the transition of a new Dean. A Dean with a new vision for our school. We've hit some rough parts along the way (i.e. two words: The Opinion; graduation on a Tuesday: what were we thinking?; cutting the law review board's fellowships, etc.). But you know what, change may not be that bad for us after all. We're at a cross-roads where we need to look in the mirror. We can't rest on our laurels and our "non-traditional" niche in this market. Things are a lot more complex than they used to be. Change is for the better, right? Hello? Why isn't anyone answering me?

Next stop: second year. This will be short because this letter is too long already and I haven't even made anyone cry yet. Second year we've figured out the game, or so we think. We went through OCI and were humbled once again. They worked us to death, but we'll soon be seniors. A lot more happens during second year, but you have or will be there. Enjoy!

Next stop: third year. By now almost everyone is working. The biggest challenge at this point is to balance everything. School has unfortunately taken a back seat. Some classes are boring, some unbearable, others still enlightening. We're pushing as hard as we can to make it to the end. We see some light at the end of the tunnel, but we know the big bad wolf (bar exam) is waiting for us. For now, we're looking for jobs, working, and studying when time permits. The best part is that we've figured out the game. We look at the challenges as pressure now rather than stress. We know there is an end, right? Hello? Why isn't anyone answering me?

Next stop: gripe time. Stay with me as I complain about some things. We've all gotten pretty good at that, haven't we? Here's what

jumps into my mind. Grade inflation: just a simple statement to a new employer explains this one. "But Mr./Ms: ?, the reason my grades are so low is because our school doesn't inflate grades." Response: "Don't let the door hit you in the ___ soldier boy/girl (there's that gender neutral stuff again-it must have been that diversity training). Diversity week: good idea, needed, and needs improvement (wow, was I generous). We're adults by now and don't want it shoved down our throats. Attendance: like I said, we're all adults and if we want to skip a class for whatever reason, we should have that choice. Ever since I last checked, I still think each one of us pays our own tuition. I know, move on. Registration: I'm in my last year of classes, have paid more than \$35K, have waited to take this certain class, and you're

telling me I'm shut out. Now I'm getting frustrated, but maybe it's just because the beer is kicking in. I know, move on.

Speaking of beer's gift to man, it's time to get sentimental. WARNING! If your law school experience has been miserable or you hate this good feeling stuff, then jump ahead. Wait a minute, I just lost more than half of you. Just bear with me. This is the time to thank those that have helped us through law school. Let me start by thanking our friends and families. They stuck with us and gave us the support we needed. Thanks for understanding when you didn't understand. We couldn't have done it without you. A part of our degree belongs to you.

Thanks Mitchell staff and administration. You did all the little things that went unnoticed. You dealt with us when we were frustrated and ornery, which was often. You helped us through the process. A special thanks to career services for guiding us to our first jobs and giving us support and encouragement. You're an invaluable resource.

Thanks to the Mitchell faculty. You challenged our minds. You imparted your knowledge and Wisdom. You listened to our questions and concerns. You taught us the law. You showed you haven't forgot what it's like to be in our shoes. One little suggestion: I know with pain comes pleasure, but consider giving more positive feedback. A "good job" or "way to go" can go a long way in a law student's journey. Despite this suggestion, our faculty, made up of full-time scholars and adjunct attorneys and judges, believe in their students. They truly care about the kinds of people and attorneys we'll become and for that we say thank you.

Thanks to the friends we've made. The best part of law school is meeting the people around you. We all know what each other is going through. Somehow, our friends make us feel as if our problems were most important at that moment, when they had just as many challenges going on. Our friends understand us. Our friends were and continue to always be there for us in the end. We'll carry that with us forever. So if your experience was miserable and you think this letter is too dramatic, at least remember that you never would have met the friend(s) you've met here. Besides, it could be worse. You could be in medical school.

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to the students. We're the heart and soul of William Mitchell. I've never come across a group of people who balance so many different things in their lives. As soon as you think your life is chaotic you just look to the left or right and you see that things aren't so bad after all. The average Mitchell grad has to balance the rigors of a family, school, work, play, and extracurricular activities. Scratch that play thing. Another indelible trait about students here is that we come with such different backgrounds. The mix works well, as young, impressionable and little ruffian students like myself can learn from more experienced, unimpressionable and [fill in the blank] students and vice versa. You know, we didn't come here with the same experiences and we won't leave with the same impressions. However, I think the important thing is that we can appreciate and respect each other for where we've come from and where we're going. Mitchell's legacy rests on our shoulders. With that said, I guess this is the part that I throw in a quote in order to transfer someone else's wisdom so that it sounds like it's my own. I've just defeated the purpose, but nonetheless, to steal from Learned Hand: "[William Mitchell] stands as a monument slowly raised, like a coral reef, from the minute of past individuals, of whom each built upon the relics which his predecessors left, and in his turn left a foundation upon which his successors might work." Enough said.

So here we are at the end of the journey. A journey less travelled. It's time to break away. It's time to travel a new route. However, with this comes a lot more responsibility. A responsibility to our school. A responsibility to our profession. A responsibility to our community. A responsibility to ourselves. With this degree comes power. If we lose sight of our responsibility, we may misuse that power. On the flip side, with this power we can make a difference in peoples lives. We can use it to influence others. Finally; we can't lose sight of the fact that we're not any better than others just because we're attorneys. We simply have a law degree and chose a different path. How we use that law degree will determine how we've made our mark.

Continuing with my theme, along this ride we've come across people we've liked and those we don't. One thing still remains the same. We're all on the same ride. We may see different things along the way, but we're all getting off at the same place. Who knows where we'll go. It's like a train ride where some of us will soon be driving the train. Some of us will crash the train. Others will own the train. Still others will jump off the train. Through it all, we can say that we were on the same train ride.

It seems like I can't say goodbye, and I know this is just killing some of you out there. You're sitting there going "get the hell out of here, Mark." Good point. With that said, I hope, if anything, that this article has sparked some good memories. It's a chance to look back at our journey and be thankful for what we did and for what it will bring us. Let me get off this ride by ending with another quote from Napoleon Hill: "What [Mitchell grads] have is will-power, which they mix with persistence and place back of their desires to insure the attainment of their objectives. The majority of people are ready to throw their aims and purposes overboard and give up at the first sign of opposition or misfortune. A few carry on despite all opposition until they attain their goal." Thanks, William Mitchell College of Law, for making dreams come true.

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LAW SCHOOLS EXAMINE BAR EXAM PASS RATES

Let's find out who's got the Best Course!! West Bar Review is issuing a challenge to Bar Bri: Show up for a Bar Review Forum where each company gets to make a brief presentation followed by a question and answer session.

- West will pay to rent a lecture hall.
- West will sponsor lunch for as many Boalt students as wish to attend.
- All BarBri needs to do is pick a day which is convenient and show up. If BarBri truly has "The Best Course", there is absolutely no reason not to participate.

Law Schools Examine Bar Exam Pass Rates

In an unprecedented move, one Illinois school has published the pass rates of their students according to what bar review course they took. Those who took West Bar had a pass rate of 55% on the July 1996 bar exam while non-West students had a pass rate of 82.5%. The dean of this school was so concerned about the pass rate of his students that he sent a letter to every law school dean in the nation alerting them to this startling statistical difference and encouraging each law school to do their own studies. Law school deans have become increasingly concerned about their bar exam pass rates because bar exam pass rates must now be reported to the ABA. Furthermore, beginning with the 1997 U.S. News and World Reports, law school rankings include bar passage rates as a factor in determining law school rankings.

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