11-19-1996

The Advocate

The Advocate, Fordham Law School

Follow this and additional works at: http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/student_the_advocate

Part of the Law Commons

Recommended Citation

http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/student_the_advocate/107

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at FLASH: The Fordham Law Archive of Scholarship and History. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Advocate by an authorized administrator of FLASH: The Fordham Law Archive of Scholarship and History. For more information, please contact tmelnick@law.fordham.edu.
by Robert J. Gorrizlayn

Dean John D. Feerick received the first ever "Dean of the Year" Award from the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL) at the organization's Annual Awards Dinner held on the 18th of October in Washington, D.C. The dinner was attended by over 500, including Assistant Dean Robert J. Reilly, Assistant Dean Kathleen Brady, Professor Thomas Quinn who holds the Sidney C. Norris Chair of Law to Public Service, Thomas Schoenherr and Susan Adelsberg of the Law School's Public Interest Resource Center. Also in attendance were representatives from student organizations including BALSAL, Environmental Law Journal, Intellectual Property Law Journal, LALSA, Law Review, Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship, Stein Scholar's Program, Student Bar Association and Urban Law Journal. Members of Fordham's D.C. alumni community were also present, as well as several members of Dean Feerick's family.

In presenting the award, NAPIL Executive Director David Stern noted Dean Feerick's career-long dedication to public service, especially during his time at Fordham Law School. Stern recalled that Dean Feerick personally raised $1 million from fourteen alumni to establish an endowment for the Public Interest Resource Center to ensure that public interest lawyering will always have a place at Fordham.

Upon receiving the honor, Dean Feerick noted the strong Fordham presence in the audience and remarked that it was representative of the law school's commitment to public service. Dean Feerick went on to congratulate the other Awards Dinner honorees and to urge the

Please see Feerick continued on page 9

FORDHAM LAW STUDENTS/STAFF BRAVE STORM TO SHOW THEY CARE

By The Fordham New York Cares Day Team

Torrential downpours and gale force winds did not stop 21 Fordham Law student and staff volunteers from traveling to Far Rockaway on October 19th to spend a day renovating dilapidated surfside Public School 256 as part of New York Cares Day '96. The volunteers, recruited by Fordham Law Women, the National Lawyers Guild, Phi Alpha Delta, and the Fordham Urban Law Journal, were tired and paint-splattered by the end of the day but treasured their newfound friendships, some very funny stories, and the feeling that they had made a real difference in the lives of New York City children by brightening their public school.

On learning of the project, Assistant Dean Robert Reilly observed, "It is very appropriate that this wonderful activity was taking place on the very same weekend that Fordham Law School was being honored in Washington D.C. by the National Association for Public Interest Law. Our students deserve to be the talk of the nation."

Every October, on New York Cares Day, thousands of volunteers from companies, schools, and other organizations around New York join together to help fix and renovate New York City public schools. In the past volunteers have restored playgrounds, planted trees and bulbs, created murals, painted classrooms and renovated libraries; "The Urban Law Journal has sent a team every year for the past four years," said Bart Banino, of the ILJ. "We consider it a part of the Journal's commitment to address urban issues in the community where we live. In fact, photos of two of our team members from last year were used on this year's official New York Cares Day brochure!"

The volunteers woke early Saturday morning, October 19th, to find the biggest fall storm in years lashing the streets with rain and wind. They forged ahead anyway, negotiating the wet public transit system at dawn to arrive in Grand Central Station for the 8:00 a.m. registration along with 7,000 other volunteers. Free coffee, juice and pastries helped warm them up. Then, joined by volun-

Please See FLW continued on page 9
On a like note, why in the world are the Environmental and Intellectual Journals standing their published books in front of their doors? Tucked away, they are nearly impossible to grab hold of—a pity since some of the Notes and Comments are actually interesting to read.

With the administration's permission, all published journals should be displayed by the entrance of the Law School, preferably along the wall near the library's entrance. This enables students, professors, staff, and visitors to reach out for one. Perhaps Professor Dworkin in his recent visit would have liked one of the Law Review's articles.

Where's The Microwave?

Just the other day a new microwave appeared in the cafeteria. The sad part is that it looks like it has disappeared. In the same location where the new one used to be is a crusdy, and dingy looking DIRTY one. Isn't anyone responsible for cleaning it? Only a few weeks have gone by and yet you wouldn't even want to open the microwave. And while they're cleaning the microwave, they might think about emptying the garbage cans just a few minutes before they overflow.

And what about the missing degrees on the Registrar's list of graduates? Since a degree is necessary for acceptance into Fordham Law it seems rather stupid that the Registrar's office doesn't have the information available.

But you best be careful about where you choose to enter if you're coming to school on Election Day. It seems that security was preventing students from walking through Lowenstein to get into the Law School because the connecting corridor was closed. You could walk around Lowenstein and you could walk around the law school but you couldn't use one to get into the other. What is their point? Fortunately, since it is November and you have just received your directory you can call security and find the best way around. Especially since you already know where the copy center is in Lowenstein.

Food for thought: Where is Magnetti? Too many rumors, not enough truth.

In this Issue

Don't forget to read Maria John's Evening Blues, day and evening students alike. She touches upon an issue that has long been sulking in the hearts of evening students: basic unfairness. The reader probably saw this coming, but quite surprisingly, Maria plans to follow up in the next issue with an article from the opposite viewpoint.

As another voice to the evening division, Ayako Nagano reminds the day students about the fundamental confusion that an evening student must juggle and how it is exponentially more difficult to be an evening student than a day student.

For this issue, two new contributors throw in a piece of their minds, Illona Stanley takes up where last year's First Year Drama left off, in its usual philosophical-after-a-joint ruse. Yurii Kachuro then makes an argument for the anti-suit society and the demise of the stuffy attorney. The reader should jot down his or her own arguments and send them in. Both writers will gladly take anyone on.

Finally, an applause to Karen Hoffman, who had the simplest topic but the most difficult time getting the information. If I last heard correctly, she ended up playing a one-on-one with the entire Cravath team and winning! — M. Paulose Jr.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

In the last issue of The Advocate, the Gay and Lesbian Law Association (GALLA) was not listed under the comprehensive guide to student activities at Fordham Law School. We hope, at this time, that we can include our description of GALLA in The Advocate.

GALLA endeavors to enrich the Fordham Law School community and its Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and GLBT legal issues. The reader probably saw this coming, but quite surprisingly, Maria plans to follow up in the next issue with an article from the opposite viewpoint.

As another voice to the evening division, Ayako Nagano reminds the day students about the fundamental confusion that an evening student must juggle and how it is exponentially more difficult to be an evening student than a day student.

For this issue, two new contributors throw in a piece of their minds, Illona Stanley takes up where last year's First Year Drama left off, in its usual philosophical-after-a-joint ruse. Yurii Kachuro then makes an argument for the anti-suit society and the demise of the stuffy attorney. The reader should jot down his or her own arguments and send them in. Both writers will gladly take anyone on.

Finally, an applause to Karen Hoffman, who had the simplest topic but the most difficult time getting the information. If I last heard correctly, she ended up playing a one-on-one with the entire Cravath team and winning! — M. Paulose Jr.

To some it is a Brussel-Sprout, but I, I have no doubt, that taste both vile and replete, it surely is the devil's sweet.

That taste, my buds cannot block it, that taste - it is Satan's chocolate, from murky depths it has come, to threaten our lord's Kingdom.

Green gremlins the angels so despise, Blasphemy before god's eyes, Oh dear grocer hear the cries, And from your store, these demons exorcise.

- Timothy Dockery
Interview with Fordham Alumni:
Hon. Kevin Thomas Duffy and Hon. Irene K. Duffy:
A Word of Advice to Students

by Amy Fahey ('99)

As a first year law student, I have heard again and again that my greatest resource for information about teachers, examinations, outlines and anything else relating to law school is Second and Third Years. While that may be true, it is my belief that the Fordham Alumni may be the most invaluable asset to all Fordham students.

I recently had the privilege of meeting two very interesting alumni, who both happen to be judges, and who happen to be married to each other. Honorable Irene K. Duffy, Class of 1957 and Honorable Kevin Thomas Duffy, Class of 1958, met during their senior year at college while he was attending Fordham, and she was attending the College of New Rochelle. They both went on to Fordham Law, he in the evening school, and she in the day, where they each worked to put themselves through school, and each excelled in their studies. The Duffy’s are very kind and friendly people, each with a sense of humor that made my visit with them both fun and interesting.

Judge Irene Duffy is presently an acting New York State Supreme Court Judge, sitting in Bronx County in the matrimonial part. After graduating from Fordham Law, she first worked for a law firm, then went on to work at the Securities and Exchange Commission, where she became the Assistant Chief of the Enforcement Division. Meanwhile, she and her husband had children, and she took a hiatus of roughly nine years doing private practice and raising their four children. She then went back to work at the SEC as an Enforcement Attorney, then took a job as the Assistant Corporation Counsel in Yonkers, and later, served as Assistant District Attorney. In 1977, she was appointed as a Family Court Judge, then later sat in criminal court, and now is sitting as a Supreme Court Judge.

Judge Kevin Thomas Duffy became a judge at the United States Courthouse in 1972. He resides over criminal matters, admiralty, anti-trust, and any other federal issues. When he graduated from Fordham, he became a law clerk for J. Edward Lombard, a judge of the United States Court of Appeals. When I met with the judges, and we were walking back to his office from the courtroom, Judge Duffy pointed to the ceilings in the corridor, and with great pride, showed me the beautiful architect and design. It seems that after all of these years, he is still in awe over the overwhelming beauty and power of the courthouse. He explained that he came here once while he was a law student and has never really left. Though he did do other work for many years before becoming a judge, he has spent most of his career in the United States Courthouse. After his clerkship, he served as the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

He then went on to private practice for nine years, and later, he too worked at the Securities and Exchange Commission, but not at the same time as his wife. While the assumption might be that the Duffy’s have the most interesting and controversial conversations imaginable over the dinner table, they were both quick to correct this belief. Hon. Irene Duffy responded, “when you have four children to talk about, worry about, hope about, you don’t talk about law at all.” She went on to explain that although they are both judges, they address totally different legal problems, and have different personalities and outlooks. He went on to joke that if she came home citing cases, he “would be applying to the matrimonial part, hopefully in some other county, for a divorce.”

The Duffy’s are a real Fordham Family. He teaches, and has been the Vice President of the Fordham Law Alumni Association for the last 27 years. She judges Moot Court, and does any other services she is asked of from the school. They believe it is necessary to give back. In fact, the two could not emphasize enough the importance of alumni support.

They both talked about the Fordham Community, meaning both students and alumni. In addition to alumni being an important link for many of us to eventually find employment, the alumni are assisting us right now while we are students. Over the years, they have come up with ideas to better the school in a number of ways. They have made recommendations relating to examination procedures, the diversity of faculty and placement assistance. In fact, the Alumni Association paid for the Placement Office to be set up, and still support our Placement Center today. Hon. Irene Duffy advises, “become active in the Alumni Association. In the long run it’s going to be Fordham and where it stacks up that is going to be most important to the students.” He added, “Most of your clients will ultimately come not from

Please see Alumni continued on page 12

WESTBAR'S FREE REVIEW LECTURES

FOR ALL FORDHAM STUDENTS

West Bar Review has developed lectures in a unique, concentrated format. In just a few hours you will review the basic substantive law... but in a way that lets you maximize what you know during the pressure cooker of your final exams - accurately and efficiently.

CONTRACTS

John Moye, Esq.
Saturday, December 7, 1996
9:00 am - 4:15 pm Rm. 311

CRIMINAL LAW

Prof. Byron Warnken
November 22, 1996
3:15 pm - 7:15 pm Rm. 311
&
Sunday, December 8, 1996
10:20 am - 2:15 pm Rm. 211

HOW TO WRITE A CRIMINAL LAW ESSAY

Sun., December 8* 9:15 am - 10:15 am Rm. 211

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Prof. Mary Cheh
Sunday, December 8, 1996
9:00 am - 1:30 pm Rm. 207

TORTS

Prof. Andrew Klein
Friday, December 6, 1996
3:15 pm - 7:45 pm Rm. 311
&
Saturday, December 7, 1996
10:20 am - 2:45 pm Rm. 207

HOW TO WRITE A TORTS ESSAY

Sat., December 7* 9:15 am - 10:15 am Rm. 207

CORPORATIONS

Stanley Ches, Esq.
Sunday, December 8, 1996
9:30 am - 1:30 pm Rm. 311
&
Wednesday, December 11, 1996
10:00 am - 2:00 pm Rm. 207

EVIDENCE

Rafael Guzman, Esq.
Saturday, December 7, 1996
9:30 am - 3:30 pm Rm. 211

CIVIL PROCEDURE

Prof. Arthur Miller LIV'8 at Columbia University
435 W. 116th St. NYC Rm. 106
Sunday, November 24, 1996
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

* WestBar enrollees can borrow audiotapes of these lectures, and many more, from our Lecture Series Library. Stop by the West Bar Review table or speak with a student representative for more information.
Dealing with the ups and downs of being a Fordham's First Year Student

THE FIRST YEAR DRAMA
Any Club That Would Have Me as a Member

by Ilona Stanley (99)

A memo to all first years, though I'm sure that's the last thing you want to see right now: Are you having some difficulty accepting the fact that you've joined the ranks of the suffering yet honorable participants in legal pedagogy? I know I am. Late at night, with my vision permanently focused on Calamari & Perillo, having decided I need a caffeine catheter directly to my vein, I get a little philosophical about what my being a member of the law student species means to my being a member of the human species. My thoughts often have the following tone:

I have a lot of friends who are firm believers in certain psychological phenomena. I'm not an expert in the ideas, but it's all stuff along the lines of individuals' amazing degree of suggestibility when they're in groups: people who never would have killed anyone becoming depraved murderers when exposed to the right mob at the right time; and people who never would have gone out of their way to help anyone pitching in to do one part of a crowd's good deed.

I need to be part of the Twenty-something set: I need to go out and buy a pair of skin-tight, blue vinyl pants; or to put on steel-toed shoes and go hear some unknown English band in the East Village until all hours.

I'll say right now that I often have a difficult time subscribing too much to the broad idea that humans can do certain things or act certain ways without at all wanting to. I don't think you can be hypnotized without buying in at least a little. I personally have tried on and off for years to become a bona fide smoker, and I still haven't managed to work myself up to more than a cigarette a day. The Cliff Notes to my philosophy of life would probably contain a lot of catch phrases like "free will" and "individual responsibility." The problem with my own theory starts when, every now and again, I become a victim of the group dynamic phenomenon myself. I'll watch a little too much MTV and decide that, instead of being a mild-mannered Fordham Law first-year, I need to be part of the Twenty-something set: I need to go out and buy a pair of skin-tight, blue vinyl pants; or to put on steel-toed shoes and go hear some unknown English band in the East Village until all hours.

"Instead of?" Why do I sound as though the things I have to say are going to be mutually exclusive? Well, on my most recent trip to Avenue A, I knew I caught a distinct whiff of weed being smoked a few feet from me at this club. Immediately I backed back to a particular Abramovkyan triad on the subject of whether a lawyer's isolated mistake should be allowed to ruin his whole career, and found myself thinking, "Boy - if the American Bar Association even knew I was here;" smelling what it would be like to be IT in this melodramatic way. Maybe that's true and maybe it isn't, and it's not as if I'm letting my potential livelihood determine my whole existence right now. Nonetheless, sometimes I can't help thinking that it's not a matter of 'balancing your life,' as they told us at Orientation; it's a matter of choosing your frame of mind. You can either be Responsible Person, Future Lawyer of America; or you can keep on being a kid. Somebody out there, some submissive, loud member of The Group I Could Be In, that exclusive club made up of all the people I must have elected not to be when I elected to come to law school, is speaking to me. Someone with yellow skin with a hyperdramatic needle cover through his earlobe (or maybe he's concentrating hard on his Rickenbacker, wearing side-burns and a three-button suit), is telling me that attending law school may be a little more growing up than I have to do this soon.

But there I go again. Maybe the tight blue pants are cutting off the oxygen to my brain. Even the idea of a life that has equal distribution of "fun" activities and "responsible" ones is too anti-individu­alism for me. Even if "responsibility" is clear-cut enough, what is "fun?" I think we all choose our frame of mind, but we do it hundreds of times a week, each decision made independently of any of the others. No course of action I pick will be the right one in, or relegate me to, one clique or another; no way do I have to tell myself that because I'm something that other people are too, there's suddenly going to be some form of collective judgment on how I will act. I'm just glad I remembered that in time to start the long memo.

First Year Questions: What is Law Review?

by Andrew Fenicia (99) and Frederick Forster (00)

This month's installment of First Year Questions poses the timeless question: What is law review? "Holy," quipped one 2L in a typically reverent response.

Notwithstanding the intended irony of her remark, it is clear that for many first year law students law review is a sacred issue. With little more than vague and grandiose notions of academic excellence, many IL's take the importance of law review membership on faith. In a very real sense, it is the promised land of legal education, inhabited by a super-elite corps of chosen ones. Its inner workings are a mysterious enigma, wrapped in a Bluebook, inside of a library.

Clearly the myth and pageantry surrounding law review are considerable. Yet somewhere amidst all the deferen­tions lies a fairly simple objective, namely, to publish six student editions of the Bluebook, inside of a library. In fact, what law review articles have to players in the isolated world of academia, law review articles have to的父亲hood of occasional inconvenience, sleeplessness and boredom. Further incentive for law review members to maintain the required high quality of work is recognition of the fact that their efforts have a direct impact on the reputation of the school. After conducting a number of interviews, it appears that the general perception of the practical import of making law review differs significantly between members and non-members. Most non-members tend to feel that in terms of prestige, it is the single most important item on any J.D. candidate's resume. One 2L described it as "the fast lane into a Wall Street firm." By contrast, many law review members share a tendency to downplay its significance in the job search process. The general consensus is that while law review is impressive resume fodder, students still have to interview well and impress potential employers in other ways. One 3L commented that while membership may lead to a relative abundance of interviews, "law review doesn't guarantee a job at the firm anymore."

The Boons of intense pride, personal satisfaction, and sheer resume power gained by membership outweigh the burdens of occasional inconvenience, sleeplessness and boredom.

After orientation, new second year law review staff can look forward to receiving the first of their assignments, which are issued to pairs of students on a weekly basis. The individual assignments typically entail five to ten hours worth of site checking per week, a process which is uniformly described as gnawing, laborious, but frequently rewarding in view of the big picture. Several members admitted to having "serious doubts" about the usefulness of their grade point averages early in the process. But, most review members seem to agree that the boons of intense pride, personal satisfaction, and sheer resume power gained by membership outweigh the burdens of occasional inconvenience, sleeplessness and boredom.

One 3L summed it up in saying that hiring law firms generally recognize that any kind of journal membership is valuable, because it guides students with practical skills that "pave the way for success in the practice of law."
FLW
continued from page 9
Hot soup and sandwiches served by the school staff provided a welcome lunch break.
By 4:00 p.m., the rooms and hallways looked beautiful, two gorgeous new murals adorning the walls, all stray striae of paint had been carefully mopped from the floor, all paper drop cloths and trash were neatly stowed away. Contributing just a few hours of their time, the Fordham team had transformed a ragged-run-down school into a brighter, cleaner environment for learning. The students of P.S. 256, who face daunting emotional, economic, and educational challenges every day, would know, when they arrived at school on Monday, that someone cares about them.
On the bus ride back across flooded highways, through gusty wind and rain, the volunteers snacked and shared the stories of the day. Who won the award for nearest (and slowest) painter? How do you carry a book case which is falling apart through a narrow hallway with wet paint on both sides and filled with open paint pans and people painting? How do you eat lunch in five minutes? Which volunteer got so much paint on him that he gave up and started painting himself with polka-dots? “Besides just helping out the school, our group really got to know each other … even some things we didn’t want to know,” said John Galluccio of the ULJ.

Afterward, the New York Cares Day organization threw a party for all the volunteers at the dance club Roseland. There, the volunteers were treated to dinner, dancing, and free gifts for their day’s efforts. Philip HoSang, President of Fordham’s chapter of the National Lawyers Guild commented, “In the grand scheme of things, the free food and gifts that we received were insignificant. The greater reward came from knowing that we were needed and that we delivered on our promise to help.” Finally, the team headed home — the storm still raging — tired, but feeling very good about their day.
“We’ll be back next year,” reported Katharine Loving, co-president of Fordham Law Women, “and again faculty, staff, students and alumni are all invited! Not only is it a fun day for a great cause, but there is nothing like volunteering together helps us be better Fordham’s chapter of the Lawyers Guild commented,”

It’s starting to get cold outside and pretty soon the outdoor basketball court behind the residence hall will be closed for the winter. Without an indoor facility, most basketball players are out of luck until at least March. However, some people may have an opportunity to keep playing ball during the cold winter months. The Lawyers Athletic League maintains several basketball leagues each winter, including a law firm league, a law student’s league, and a women’s league. Almost every major firm in the city participates in either the Lawyers Basketball League or the Corporate League, both run by the Lawyers Athletic League, an independent organization that coordinates several leagues throughout the year. Right now their volleyball league is in full swing, while basketball is just forming. There are approximately 300 teams combined in the two fall/winter men’s basketball leagues, making it the largest non-scholastic basketball league in the country. For women interested in playing, the league has one division of about ten all-women teams this season. The leagues start off with several scrimmages so that the organizers can place the teams into one of six divisions with others of their approximate skill level. Each team has approximately ten games during the regular season, with the possibility of making the play-offs. The season lasts from December until early March. Each month this column will highlight either an important league game or a game in which Fordham alumni are playing, and will include current standings from all of the leagues. Many of the firms that participate in these leagues are firms which recruit on campus. For those of you out there with an interest in sports, this league can be a great way to break the ice with alumni and potential employers.

MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM

QUESTION: IF BAR REVIEW COURSES WERE LAW SCHOOLS, WHICH ONE WOULD YOU GO TO? (HINT: BELOW, SUBSTITUTE THE WORDS “BAR REVIEW COURSE” FOR “LAW SCHOOL”)

A. A NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL WITH A 25 YEAR PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS WITH 13 FACULTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE TAUGHT FOR AN AVERAGE OF 15 YEARS FOR THE SAME NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL.

B. A NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL THAT JUST OPENED IN 1996, HAS NO TRACK RECORD AND HAS ONLY 3 FACULTY MEMBERS WHO TAUGHT IN A NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL PRIOR TO THAT TIME.

SAVE YOUR GAMBLING FOR ATLANTIC CITY!
CLEAR AS A BELL: FORDHAM 2Ls WITH GPA OF 3.03 OR HIGHER RANKED IN TOP HALF OF CLASS; EVENING DIVISION STUDENT EARNED HIGH GPA OF 4.02

by Herb Detrick (97)

In the last issue of the Advocate, we looked at Fordham’s official grading policy for 1Ls. That policy, consistently enforced by the law school administration, resulted in a bell-shaped distribution of individual course grades, with 14% A’s, 74% B’s and 9% C’s handed out by first year professors. In this issue, we focus on the bell-shaped distribution of individual student GPAs. Like the “Grade Curve,” the “GPA Curve” closely approximates the shape of a standard curve. Yet unlike the well-publicized “Grade Curve,” which is generally familiar to students and faculty alike, the exact outline of the “GPA Curve” is cloaked in secrecy by the law school administration. This purpose of this article is to make the shape of the “GPA Curve” as clear as a bell.

The GPA Curve

In addition to reviewing the 1L course grades issued by 25 different professors to determine whether the overall grade distribution conformed to stated policy, *The Advocate* analyzed over 2,200 individual course grades for 441 students who entered Fordham Law in August 1995. This analysis shows that the Grade Curve, the distribution of first year GPAs closely approximates the shape of a standard bell curve.

First year GPAs were distributed in a range which stretched from one GPA of 4.02 to at least seven GPAs below 2.0. Based on the Advocate’s analysis of posted 1L course grades, the top 10% GPA cut off for grading on to Law Review was just over 3.5, while the 25% cut off for students trying to write on was around 3.27. Students with a GPA above 3.19 scored among the top third of all first year students.

The median GPA separating the top and bottom half of the combined day and evening divisions was 3.03. The GPA distribution for students in the bottom half of the class was roughly the mirror image of the GPA distribution for students ranked in the top half.

Figure One shows the distribution of first year GPAs for those students who started Fordham Law School last year.

Odds and Ends

Despite the lack of grading information for Legal Writing and a few other courses, *The Advocate’s* study accurately reflects the influence of Fordham’s mandatory grading policy over the shape of the 1L GPA Curve.

According to the calculated rank-order listing of GPAs for 327 day students, the median first year GPA was 3.05. This statistically-calculated figure was consistent with the officially reported 1L day division median GPA of 3.056. Similarly, the rank-order listing of GPAs for 114 evening students showed a median GPA of 3.0. This statistically-calculated figure was also consistent with the registrar’s reported first year evening division median GPA of 2.995.

As expected, application of the grading curve appears to have blunted the impact on any one section of quirks in the grading habits of individual professors. Nevertheless, some Fordham Law School students stand out not because of their high marks, nor because the Grade Curve “rescued” them from an unusually poor grade. Rather, these “perfectly average” students are remarkable for their consistency in earning the same grade for each first year course.

For example, two students in Section 10 received a “perfect” 3.6 GPA by earning all B’s for their non-Legal Writing coursework. Similarly, one student in Section 12 earned all B-minuses, thereby achieving a “perfect” 2.7 GPA.

Such statistical oddities serve as reminders that Fordham students whose grades place them “in the bottom half” of their class can point to qualities like “consistency” when trying to land a legal job. After all, knowing how to successfully play one’s given “odds” against someone else’s unknown “ends” (whether of employer, judge, negotiating opponent, or jury) is an important determinant of long-term success in the legal profession. Even Marvin Belli, the wildly successful “King of Torts,” earned a C in torts during his first year of law school. And he didn’t go to Fordham.

**Figure 2: First Year GPAs**

Based on Grades for 441 Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legend</th>
<th>Below 2.0</th>
<th>2.0 to 2.2</th>
<th>2.2 to 2.4</th>
<th>2.4 to 2.6</th>
<th>2.6 to 2.8</th>
<th>2.8 to 3.0</th>
<th>3.0 to 3.2</th>
<th>3.2 to 3.4</th>
<th>3.4 to 3.6</th>
<th>3.6 to 3.8</th>
<th>3.8 to 4.0</th>
<th>4.0 and Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Students</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Grades reports for 34 first year courses offered at Fordham Law School during 1995-96 school year.
Steve Thel  
Professor of Law  
Visiting Professor, Cornell Law School, 1992-93; Law Clerk, Hon. Albert J. Henderson, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 1979-81;  
Associate, Kilpatrick & Cody (Atlanta, Ga.), 1983-85; Associate Professor, University of Mississippi School of Law, 1985-88;  
Principal subjects: Contracts, Corporate Finance, Securities Regulation.

Q. How long have you been a professor at Fordham Law School?  
A. I started Fordham in 88, and I spent a year away.

Q. When did you start smoking cigars?  
A. No, the administration is very good. You know we have this intolerant no smoking policy at the law school but I've always abided by that, and I think the administration appreciates that.

Q. Have you received any criticism from administration about being a cigar smoker?  
A. No, the administration is very good. You know we have this intolerant no smoking policy at the law school but I've always abided by that, and I think the administration appreciates that.

Q. I thought there was a rumor around school that you were caught smoking cigars in your office?  
A. Absolutely not, absolutely not, we used to be able to smoke in our offices. But I've never disobeyed the rules. Any rumor to that effect is untrue.

Q. You know that the students have started the Fordham Law Cigar Lounge, what are your thoughts about the formation of such an organization?  
A. It is a good idea to share those interests. I think cigars are relaxing and it's a good chance for people to meet each other.

Q. Has smoking cigars benefited you in any way in the legal profession, has it inspired you as a scholar, or has it relaxed you as a lawyer?  
A. I think that smoking cigars is fairly relaxing. When you smoke cigars, I think often you have an opportunity to reflect. But, all in all, I'm not sure I would recommend it.

Q. I know at times when I'm out in the public eye smoking a cigar that I'll feel uncomfortable with some of the looks that I receive. Do you ever feel that you are treated unfairly as a cigar smoker, especially considering how long you've been smoking cigars?  
A. Yeah, I understand what you're talking about, but I try not to smoke cigars in any place where you're not allowed to smoke.

Q. Today, we see a lot of women smoking cigars. And a lot of young people smoking cigars, what are your feelings about this trend?  
A. I think it's a trend for women, or young people, or anyone who wants to smoke cigars to smoke them, and I can see why people want to try them when they see them. I think most of the people who try cigars don't like them.

Q. Do you think that the popularity of Cigar smoking will last?  
A. I think that with all the magazines and exposure that cigars are getting, a lot of people will pick up smoking cigars, it does seem like it's exploding.

Q. What would your grandfather say about the exorbitant prices of cigars today?  
A. I think he would be a rich man.

Q. One reason for prices being so high is the embargo we have against Cuba because it forces people to buy them illegally. What do you think of the trade embargo against Cuba?  
A. I'm not sure about all the politics of it, but it doesn't seem to me that it's a good idea. Most people aren't smoking Cuban cigars. I think that embargoes on people as a tool is not a good idea, but it's not an area that I've studied, but I know people who have, and it doesn't serve a whole lot of purpose.

Q. When you went to Harvard Law School, were there a lot of students or professors who smoked cigars?  
A. I suppose there were, but back then, people didn't really smoke cigars much. I might have gone through law school without ever smoking a cigar.

Q. Can you remember any time he had an intimate conversation with someone that he might not have had, had he not shared the common interest of cigar smoking?  
A. I would say it's sharing a common interest, it takes about a half-hour, and you have occasion to talk. Having a half-hour conversation now a days is unfortunately rare. You may have a conversation like that with a person you don't know, or a person you've just met. Often enough, or I think often for me I've had very interesting conversations, as a cigar with an insurance agent once, and that was not a good conversation, but I smoked a cigar with a professor of education and learned a great deal about education and that's exactly what I ought to be doing.

Q. I know that for me there are certain times where a cigar typifies the moment, and puts everything in perspective. I don't want to use cliches, but a kind of "It just doesn't get much better than this" type of time. For me these moments are 1) when I'm alone driving in a car, just me and the cigar and the road, and 2) when I take a bath. What about you?  
A. I don't think I've ever smoked a cigar in the bathtub, and not in the car either, I think that smoking a cigar after a good meal is a good thing, it is unfortunate and bad that there are relatively few restaurants where you can smoke a cigar. I think that the best time for me to smoke a cigar is when I take about an hour off in the afternoon and go out and talk to students or colleagues who are interested in the same pastime.

Q. I got an opportunity to hear Dean Feerick speak and he said that he and his wife, while walking down the street last week, passed some students. Dean Feerick's wife said to Dean Feerick, "Did you hear what that student said to the other student?" Dean Feerick replied, "no." She said, "The first student said, 'Was that the Dean?' and the other student said, 'I think so, but I'm not sure.'" Do you think he kind of reflected on the reality that being a dean and being as busy as he is, he doesn't really get a whole lot of time to meet and interact with the student body. You were just discussing how smoking cigars afforded you the opportunity to talk to students and colleagues.

Please see Thel continued on page 13

REMINDER: Please purchase a Fordham Law Cigar Lounge T-Shirt for $15.00. This cost will go to defray the expense of our big alumni event next semester.
By Susan Altamore '99

As part of my employment history, I have been involved in children's book publishing, worked in the in-house legal department of a foreign bank, negotiated leveraged leases, and worked as a legal assistant at one of the major law firms here in New York City. The last job is the one that I re-examine the most now that I am in law school. Not because I learned to do legal research there; I didn’t. Nor did I learn the principles of tort law or contracts there. And not even because I made a lot of contacts there; what senior partner remembers a lowly legal assistant ten years later? No, the reason I look back on those years now is because I learned then what a first year associate really does — and it’s not at all what you think.

I know, you imagine that being an associate at a major New York City law firm means lots of money, more time to have a life, a chance to use all the things you’ve been studying for three years in law school and just generally being a young, smart attorney. Well, the good news is that you will earn a lot of money, more in fact than you’ll probably have a chance to spend most weeks. Yes, you’ll be able to take extravagant vacations to lovely places like St. Thomas, Hawaii and Europe. You’ll be able to afford a nice car - and the insurance on it. You’ll probably even have a decent apartment. What you won’t have, however, is the time to enjoy all of these accoutrements.

Your vacation, assuming the partner lets you actually take the one you had scheduled three months before, will be interrupted by calls and faxes from the office that “can’t wait.” (Note: when you are actually in the office you will never see this important.) You’ll drive your car to the Hamptons the one Sunday all summer you escape from the office. Your apartment will become the place you sleep and change clothes, not necessarily in conjunction with each other. In other words, they make you earn the money.

Now, I am exaggerating a bit, but unfortunately, not too much. Year after year I would see new associates start at the firm, full of self-importance and expecting all those wonderful summer associate lunches to continue. And then reality would set in. Certain truths would emerge, the first one being as I said above: they make you earn the money. No, you’re not working every day, all day, seven days a week. But, there is a certain amount of late nights; as the title to this column said, learn to love Chinese food because you will be eating it quite a bit.

There is weekend work: if you’re closing a big deal or working on a brief that has to be in to the judge on Monday, kiss the beach goodbye. Your vacations will be at the mercy of the partners you’re working for, and if they’re canceling their trip, you can be damn sure you’re not taking one either!

There’s a few other surprises in store for you as well. The largest for first-years is that you don’t use anything you’ve learned in law school. All those contract principles and tort law cases: forget them. Criminal law: same. The great memos you were assigned to write as a summer associate: they’re for summer associates to write. Instead, first-year associates use the following skills: cite-checking (and pray the client is willing to pay for Lexis, proofreading, Xeroxing, staple-pulling and inserting, velo-binding, and people management. The proofreading, etc. is all done as part of document production and/or distribution.

Grop, you say, “I’ll be producing documents!” No, other people will be producing documents; you’ll be in charge of making sure that they come through word processing and duplicating and get in the hands of the people that are supposed to receive them. If you’re lucky, you’ll have a legal assistant or paralegal to help you. Don’t count on it, however, because their time is more valuable than yours: they already know how to do this sort of thing and are busy drafting closing documents or filing motions. Which brings me to people management. It’s very natural as a first-year associate to think that you are superior to the support staff; after all, you’ve gone to law school and they haven’t. Well, as I’ve said above, that paralegal or legal assistant or even secretary knows far more about the actual practice of law than you do. They’ve been at the firm longer, they’ve worked on other similar transactions before and, most importantly, they know the senior lawyers better than you do. A lot of law is repetition; very little is drafted from scratch or breaks new ground. The people with the experience have the advantage, even if they don’t have the degree. And, as an important aside, they often have the partner’s ear, as well: it is not unknown for a partner to marry his secretary or that young attractive legal assistant! So treat carefully; unless you’re Benjamin Cardozo. The first-year associate who gets along with the support staff and utilizes their knowledge has a far better chance of succeeding than the one who doesn’t.

All of this said, it’s really not so bad to be a first-year. It’s over quickly, and the experience will stand you in good stead no matter what direction your career takes. Just as typing was probably one of your most important, pre-law classes, so are duplicating, proofreading, and "re-lating well to others" (as they said on your first grade report card) skills that can be used anywhere. Just keep some perspective and a sense of humor - if you can’t laugh about incurring $100,000 worth of debt so you could stamp numbers on pages of documents, who can?

And, finally, one last word, BEWARE: the office receptionist invariably knows all of the gossip and relays it to the other support staff, so don’t start a relationship with another lawyer at the firm and expect to keep it quiet!

---

**Reality Bites**

'Learn to Like Chinese Food Five Days a Week' and Other Lessons for First Year Associates

---

**THE HYPE IS OVER, THE NUMBERS ARE IN.**

New York Summer 1996 Bar Review Course Market Percentages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>West</th>
<th>Pieper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment for competitions’ courses based on average attendance at lectures determined by periodic headcounts with 5% non-attendance assumed.

---

Trust The POWER OF EXPERIENCE - Trust The Proven Course
Dean Feerick: "Dean of the Year"

Feerick continued from page 1

The audience members to make public service an integral part of their professional lives. Although Dean Feerick was the first law school dean ever to receive its new "Dean of the Year" Award, Fordham Law School has been honored by NAPIL in the past. The Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship, the student group that organizes the annual Auction and funds students who spend their summers working for public interest organizations, has received several awards from NAPIL, including "Most Growth by a NAPIL Member Program" in 1992 and 1993 and NAPIL's "Special Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Member Group" in 1994. The Fellowship is the most successful law student fundraising organization in the country, last year raising more than $110,000 at the Auction and over $176,000 overall. Also honored at the Awards Dinner were Alexander Forger, president of the Legal Services Corporation, and Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Legal Justice Initiative of Alabama, who were named Outstanding Public Interest Advocates of the Year. Several law students were also recognized at the Awards Dinner: individual students, for their work providing legal services to underrepresented individuals and groups, and student organizations, for their significant progress in promoting public interest law at their law schools.

The awards dinner was a highpoint in a three day program of events planned for NAPIL's 10th Annual Career Fair and Conference. Other events included a public interest job fair and several panels on a range of topics including the death penalty, urban environmental justice and community economic development. The National Association for Public Interest Law was founded in 1986 and is committed to promoting public interest law by providing grants to students and recent graduates, and by serving as a public interest law clearinghouse and public education center. Today, NAPIL counts 140 law schools at so many law schools across the U.S. as members, including the Law School's Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship.

Save $600
Early Enrollment Discount Ends
November 20th, 1996!
Sign up Today and
FREEZE
your price at
$1,075
(regular price $1,675)

You now have a choice!

There has been a dramatic change in the bar review arena. West Bar Review now offers you higher quality and lower prices. Thousands of students across the country have already enrolled in West Bar Review; thousands will be taking us for the bar exam this summer. They tell us it is because of WestWare™ made for today's computers and today's bar exam. They tell us it is because of our experienced faculty, experts in their respective subjects and on the bar exam. They tell us it is because of our quality user-friendly materials including our questions-and-answer analysis. They tell us it is because of our exceptional customer service and convenient locations.

They tell us it is because of WestWeek™, seven days to multistate success. They tell us they chose WestBar for our State Specific Workshops™, BarPassers Multistate Workshops™, 800 HotLine™, and our Fully Integrated Approach™. They also mention our price.

FLW continued from page 1

4ers from Morehouse College Alumni, NYU Law School, and The Gap, they embarked on an hour's ride by leaky school bus, lined with conversations with old friends and new, to P.S. 256, a school serving orphans, juvenile delinquents and behaviorally troubled adolescents placed there by the courts. The toll of the city's fiscal cuts to public school budgets was evident. The paint was peeling from the dirty, graffiti-marked walls and buckets were set out in a hopeless attempt to capture the rainwater pouring through cracks in the ceiling.

Plans for outdoor work on the school's grounds were cancelled but there was plenty to do inside. With the grey surf crashing on the adjacent beach and the wind and rain leaking in, causing a river in one classroom and a steady shallow waterfall down the staircases, volunteers carefully masked off window frames and ceiling tiles and secured floor tarps before beginning painting over the dingy cracked walls with bright 'melon'-colored paint. With the assistance of some of the students who attend the school, wielding big, fluffy, painting 'mitts', bookcases were painted a brilliant red. Rebecca Marek, a Fordham first year day student happily remembered the pleasure of looking out at the rough ocean waves while painstakingly covering the window frames in off-white. "At first it was a little strange, being the only 'first-year' there," commented Marek, "but I was happy to be part of such a great team. It was really great to meet the grateful teacher whose classroom we painted."

Please see FLW
Continued on page x
Most people only drink one variety of white wine, Chardonnay. Although the Chardonnay grape produces many outstanding whites, it's a shame that people don't try the range of choices available at most wine shops. Most shops carry many inexpensive white wines that offer a nice alternative to Chardonnay monotony. Today's column is a brief introduction to some of the Chardonnay alternatives available at your local wine shop.

**Chardonnay and Hidden Chardonnay**

Before discussing the alternatives, let me say a few things about Chardonnay. Although my favorite white wines are made from the Chardonnay grape, people have forgotten that there are other types of white wine. In New York restaurants, people now commonly ask, What is your house Chardonnay?" Further, I've spoken with people who said that they don't like white wine. When I asked them what types of white they had tried, most of them could not recall trying anything other than Chardonnay.

The Chardonnay grape is used to produce most white wines carried by New York wine stores. Shelves are packed with a plethora of California Chardonnay varieties. These wines say Chardonnay on the label and are made from a minimum of 75% Chardonnay grapes. Further, other countries are getting into the act. Argentina, Australia, Chile, Hungary, Romania, and South Africa are all making Chardonnay. Even traditional wine countries such as France, Italy, and Spain are now labeling their wines as Chardonnay. But that's not all. There are many bottles of hidden Chardonnay on the shelves. Although they don't indicate it on the label, almost all French white Burgundies are made from Chardonnay. These include: Pucilly-Fuisse', Macon Villages, Macon, Chablis, Chassange Montrachet, Puligny Montrachet, Meursault, and practically everything called "Bourgogne Blanc." Additionally, white Beaujolais and many Champagnes are made from Chardonnay.

**Chardonnay Alternatives**

**Sauvignon Blanc**

The Sauvignon Blanc is the Avis of white wine grapes: it's number two and it tries harder. Vintners on several continents make fine wines from this varietal. Despite their efforts, however, it has never equaled the Chardonnay's reputation. Although I am tempted to feel sorry for this long-suffering grape, I am happy that it has not achieved notoriety because it is a marvelous bargain. The easiest Sauvignon Blancs to spot on the shelves are the varietals from California and Australia that are named "Sauvignon Blanc." Although these wines may be made from several grapes, they are predominantly Sauvignon Blanc. Very few of the California and Australian wines sell for more than $12 a bottle; most sell for less than $10. Almost all of these wines are undervalued and are worth a look.

Unfortunately, some California Sauvignon Blancs are called "Fume' Blanc." This term was coined by Robert Mondavi in an attempt to get his wines to sell better. I don't know if it worked, but I do know that it has caused needless confusion. Sauvignon Blancs can be dry or semi-sweet. The dry Sauvignon Blancs are generally sharp, crisp, acidic wines that have decent fruity flavors. See, e.g., Robert Mondavi Fume' Blanc (California, $8); Simi Sauvignon Blanc (California, $8); Taltarni Sauvignon Blanc (Australia, $8). The semi-sweet wines can be smooth, rich, and fruity. If you would like to try one of these, I strongly recommend the Caymus Sauvignon Blanc. For $11, this is one of the best white wine values going. See also Carmenet, 1989, Reserve Bottling Sauvignon Blanc, Barrel-Fermented ($12).

There are also many French Sauvignon Blancs that don't have the

---

**The Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship's 6th Annual Goods and Services Auction**

March 12th, 1997

Sign up NOW and help with

- Canvassing for Donations
- Soliciting Major Corporations
- Networking with NYC Law Firms
- Working With Fordham Alumni, Faculty & Students

To make this year the most successful yet!

HELP US TO HELP YOU
The Black Law Students Association & Molimo (Undergraduate Black Students Association) Presents

A Kwangzaa Celebration

on December 6th at 7:00p.m.

in the McNally Amphitheatre

Look for more information on the BLSA Bulletin Board.

cences with cheap German wines and with dreadful California wines with "Riesling" emblazoned on the jug.

Yet, I have decided to reconsider my position for several reasons. First, I have tried a few top-quality, sweet German Rieslings that are incredible. Although these wines are expensive, some of them can be very rich and absolutely packed with fruit flavors. Second, over the past two years, I have begun to drink dry Alsatian Rieslings, and they are a magnificent bargain. For $10, you can buy a very nice bottle of Riesling made by Hugel or Zind-Humbrecht. For less than that, you can buy a good Riesling made by Sparr or Trimbach. These Rieslings are good dry whites with spicy, fruity flavors. Third, a friend of mine introduced me to a couple of good, dry, New York Rieslings. Quite frankly, I was shocked. I’ll get the names to you soon.

Gewurztraminer

This grape is used to produce both dry and sweet wines in Germany, California, and France’s- Alsace region. Like the Riesling, it can be quite dry or can be made into late harvest dessert wines. Unlike the Riesling, however, the Gewurztraminer has a very distinctive spicy aroma and taste. Most people either like this grape a lot, or they dislike it intensely. Not only does the Gewurztraminer match very nicely with many spicy foods, but it perfectly complements asparagus. A dry Gewurztraminer’s spicy flavor is the perfect foil for the asparagus’ tangy, vegetal, stalky taste. Further, the Gewurztraminer is a good bargain because not many people drink this wine; as a general rule, people don’t drink a wine if they can’t pronounce it. For a good, dry, $10 Gewurztraminer, try the Hugel or the Zind-Humbrecht. For a good, sweet Gewurstaminer, look for late harvest Gewurztraminers from California. Many of them are sold in half bottles.

White Rhones

France’s Rhone region makes many fine, inexpensive, full-bodied white wines. At the low end of the market, white Rhone’s are simply called “Cotes du Rhone.” Many of the wines sell for under $8. They are generally high alcohol, hot, spicy white wines with low acidity and a nice degree of fruitiness. Because these full-bodied wines have low acid levels, they aren’t the best wines to drink with white-meat fish or shellfish. Yet, because of their strength, these wines can stand up to heavier foods. For a good, cheap bottle, I strongly recommend E. Guigal’s whites. Ask your local merchant for others.

White Italian Wines

I generally don’t write about Italian wines because my colleague Carol Remy handles this subject. Yet, I must note that there are a number of tasty Italian whites that are fine alternatives to Chardonnay. I have had several Gavi white wines from Piedmont, and they all have been quite good. Typically these are slightly dry wines with medium bodies and tasty fruity flavors. I have particularly enjoyed the wines called “Gavi di Gavi.” Most of these wines sell in the $10 range and definitely warrant further examination. I have also enjoyed several refreshing, light, cheap Italian white wines. Although most of them are nothing special, cheap Chardonnay usually isn’t that great either.

White Spanish Wines

Although they can be spotty, some Spanish white wines are nice. As with most of their wines, the Spanish only sell white wines that are fully mature. If you look at the color of a bottle of Please see WINE continued on page 13

Do you have too much time on your hands?
Do you have no consideration for contracts?
Do you feel like abandoning Civil Procedure for failure to state a claim for which relief can be granted?
Do you simply own no property and therefore see no reason for studying it?
If you answered yes to any of these questions, The Advocate can use you. If you are interested in writing for the Official Student Newspaper of Fordham Law School, please contact us at 636-6964.
APALSA

Announces the APALSA STUDY BREAK!!!

December 9th, 4:00 p.m.

Location: TBA

For more information contact any member of the APALSA board.

ALUMNI
continued from page 3

your friends, but from other lawyers. The alumni help each other. "They both compared their experience with that of many of their friends who are lawyers. She said, "I personally know of some lawyers that are not among us at Fordham because of the warmth the Alumni Association and graduates show to one another. At a lot of law schools, you are important if you are able to give money, and that seems to be the total criteria. That's not so at Fordham. My husband and I have never made big money. We have both more or less always been in public service. I guess we both could have gone out and made a lot of money; I think we have the ingredients to do it, but we chose to go this path. We can't give a lot of money, but we give back in another way."

In discussing their present careers, Hon. Irene Duffy feels that being a judge is very much like being a teacher. "When you're working with a jury, you are educating them as to what is going on in the courtroom. I always felt that it is important for the jury to get a very good feeling from the judge. A feeling of fairness, kindness and so on. I think we both have always tried to deal with juries in that way, and I think we have done it successfully. We are teaching the public that this isn't all such a bad system."

Her advice to students is that people who go to law school should realize you can do a lot of things besides being a lawyer. "I don't think students should worry too much about the future. Life will take you where it will, and sometimes you really don't have much choice about what happens. You have to be flexible and be optimistic."

Then, in quoting something her husband once said, she asked me, "What do you call the person to graduate last in your class?" Unable to answer, she told me: "A lawyer. No matter where I rank in the class, take pride that you graduate, that you are a lawyer."

The Latin American Law Students Association at Fordham University School of Law

present

a panel discussion
entitled

POLITICAL POWER IN NEW YORK: A LATINO PERSPECTIVE

Master of Ceremonies:
NYC Councilman Adam Clayton Powell IV '88

Guest Speakers:
*Fernando Ferrer, Bronx Borough President*
*Roberto Ramirez, NYS Assemblyman & Democratic Party County Chair*
*Israel Ruiz, NYC Councilman*

Monday, November 25, 1996
Fordham University School of Law
McNally Amphitheater
140 West 62nd Street
6:00 PM

Any questions or requests for more information should be directed to Fordham LALSA at (212) 636-6950.
Twas the nocturnal segment of the diurnal period preceding the annual Yuletide celebration, and throughout our place of evidence, kinetic activity was not in evidence among the possessors of this potential, including that species of domestic rodent known as Mus musculus. Hysteria was meticulously suspended from the forward edge of the wood burning calcic apparatus, pursuant to our anticipatory pleasure regarding an imminent visitation from an eccentrical philatelist among whose folkloric appellations is the honorific title of St. Nicholas. The prepubescent siblings, comfortably ensconced in their respective accommodations of repose, were experiencing subconscious visual hallucinations of variegated fruit confections moving rhythmically through their cerbrums. My conjugal partner and I, attired in our nocturnal head coverings, were about to take slumberous advantage of the hibernal darkness when upon the面子e vulnerable portion of the ground there ascended such a cacophony of dissonance that I felt compelled to arise from my place of repose for the purpose of ascertaining the precise source thereof.

Hastening to the casement, I forthwith opened the barriers sealing this fenestration, noting thereupon that the lunar brilliancy, reflected as it was on the surface of a recent crystalline precipitation, might be said to rival that of the solar meridian. itself the surface of a recent crystalline precipitation, became instantly apparent to me that he ebrums. My conjugal partner and I were about to take slumberous advantage of the hibernal darkness when upon the surface of a recent crystalline precipitation, became instantly apparent to me that he 

---

**WINE**

continued from page 12

White Spanish wine, you may notice that it has a deep, yellow color. This is caused by one of two factors. First, the wine may be golden because it is fully mature. As a general rule, white wines turn more golden as they age, and just as these wines may turn color because they are maderized. Maderization is a type of alcoholic oxidation that occurs when a wine has spent too much time in an oak cask. The wine turns an amber color, loses its fruity flavors, and tastes rather nasty. To avoid maderized wines look for the lighter, yellow-colored Spanish white wines. If you can avoid the burn, oxidized wines, Spanish whites are a good buy. White wines from the Rueda region will be under $8. Many of these are nice, strong, oaky, wines with little acid and a moderate degree of fruit. See, e.g., Marqués de Riscal, Reuda ($5). Also, for around $10–12, there are a few good whites from Spain’s Rioja region. Although these wines have the same general character as the Ruedas, they tend to be more smooth, complex, and full-bodied.

---

**CIGARS**

continued from page 7 leagues, and I know in our instance that's how we met. Has smoking cigars outside allowed you to be closer to your colleagues and meet people who are not necessarily in your class?

A. Yeah, I think so, there are a few students who smoke cigars outside, and I've gotten an opportunity to talk to them. I think you've made a very good point that it is good that faculty and students interact more. As for Dean Feerick, I think he is in touch much more than the dean of my law school, and he also has a lot of obligations, and he works very hard, but I think that your point is well taken that Dean Feerick ought to start smoking cigars, I think that would be very beneficial.

Q. With our focus being on legal education, and everyone is so busy with their studies and finding jobs. Do you think that organizations like the Fordham law cigar lounge which, in essence, don’t pertain to the law, are healthy when you're in a law school environment?

A. I had a wonderful time in law school, and I hope that students do have some real opportunities, you're getting older, it's the end of being a student. I've made very very good friends in law school who are still good friends of mine, and you would think that these organizations are a good thing, because it makes it possible for students to spend time together. Having them in a law school setting I think is good, law school is a positive place to be, it's a time to enjoy your friends, and I think organizations like this make it possible.

Q. How do you see Fordham entering into the 21st century in terms of prestige of the students, when they leave Fordham, how do you see their future in terms of what they can expect?

A. That's the sixty-thousand-dollar question...
An Argument Made: All Law Firms Should Have Casual Fridays

by Yuriy Kachuro

We are being encouraged to write in plain English, active voice, and short sentences. We are being told that our generation should change the way legal documents are written. One of the first things taught in the Legal Process course, the very first class in our law school experience, is the distinction between formalism and realism. Formalism is outdated and not that good anymore; realism is progressive and better. Why then are we still expected, after we are finally out in the real world, to wear formalistic, legalistic business attire? We are counted upon to bring changes to the legal profession, are we not? Then, let's do that. Let's change woolen suits, starched shirts, silk ties, pantyhose, and heels to blue jeans, T-shirts, sneakers, or whatever else you personally prefer. Hey, why not? Oh, well, if not blue jeans and sneakers, then let's leave it for the next generation and let's start with "Dockers" at least.

You might say that you don't care much because you plan to end up on the bench eventually. That's a strong point. I wouldn't mind that nice, comfortable, and very practical judge's robe especially after the story I heard.

Once upon a time, a judge broke a zipper on his trousers on his way to the bench. We will never know, though. Dream on. Most of us will never even come close to that sweet dream. So, let's get real and change legalese in writing, formalism in thinking, and business attire in clothing. However, we will not be the first ones to break the ice. The ice is broken in some places already, and the ice-holes are called "casual Fridays".

I recently came across a discussion thread on Counsel Connect where some forty attorneys shared their experiences and thoughts about casual Fridays and casual clothing in legal environment. Among them were solo practitioners, small firm partners, large firm associates, law school professors, and other legal professionals (no judges, though) from all over the country. And what a surprise - by more than four to one they approve casualness. The following are excerpts from some of the opinions, "... it enhances, not detracts from, work performance, making the office friendlier and more comfortable as a work..." D. F., New York

"Our clients are far more interested in the timeliness and quality of our legal work than what we are wearing when we give it. I think better in jeans than panty hose, anyway." L. Z., San Francisco

"I *know* I think better w/o a tie on (it cuts off circulation to the brain, methinks)..." M. P., New York

"I found that clients do not object to it, but they seem to genuinely appreciate the personable atmosphere which it fosters. In fact, I have even begun to ride my motorcycle to the office on Fridays, and my clients love it." D. H., Tampa Bay

"I would give 10% of my salary for casual Fridays 4 times a month. We currently are up to 2." J. p., Los Angeles

"We've found our clients are much more relaxed and open. The time saved when a client is open, frank, and relaxed is tremendous." K. T., Dunellon

It's not the clients who expect lawyers to dress up into the uniform, it's the lawyers who make clients believe that an attorney is supposed to be wearing a suit. So, let us change at least one false perception about the legal profession.

CIGAR LOUNGE

continued from page 13

Dear question. I think students coming out of the law school have a lot of opportunities. I think now, in the past, and always, what law students need to do is make the most of those opportunities, whatever they are. I think a lot of that is finding what they want, and being open to things. So far as what opportunities the law school is going to provide for the students, I think Fordham has always had a very strong reputation. It's always had very strong students and faculty, support from alumni and recognition in the community and I think that is, if anything, getting better. I think our student body, every year, gets stronger, I think our faculty has always been concerned with scholarship and teaching and continues to be. I think we have a strong faculty I think that everything is set right going into the 21st century.

Hey John,

I signed up for another bar review course my first year of law school and put $75.00 down.

Now it's time for the New York Bar Exam and my friend told me I HAVE TO TAKE PIEPER TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM!!! Is it too late to switch?

At Pieper it is never too late to switch!

Pieper will gladly credit up to $300.00 placed on another course and all you have to do is show us proof of payment!!!

PIEPER

NEW YORK-MULTISTATE BAR REVIEW

1-800 635-6569
First, an introduction. I am a very exhausted first year evening student who is thrilled to be in law school. Is this an oxyymoron — being thrilled and in law school? No! I'm just happy to finally, at age 27, fulfilling one of my life-long dreams.

Now to other more interesting topics such as, what is law school life like for students so special? Well in the words of one professor, "I don't know how they do it. When I went to school, I was a day student. Now, I see people like a young one professor, [s this an evening student. This is thrilling to be in law school."

"Who students who don't work? I mean it's not fair that of some of us have to handle a job while others don't work at all.

On a topic of non-working evening students.

According to Dean Feerick, the Fordham evening "program is designed to respond to a part of the world out there who cannot go to day school." He stated that every effort is made in the admissions process to provide opportunities for quality applicants who fit this profile. Since one purpose of the evening division is to provide a forum for those who must work full-time, while striving to achieve his or her legal education, it is seemingly inequitable to allow students who do not fall into the workcategory to avoid the difficulties of students whom the division was created to help.

For instance, one third year day student commented that many of the evening students he knew who did not work made Law Review. "Isn't that just one side. Perhaps some of you have a different view. Please share your thoughts by dropping a note in my mailbox. I'll do my best to state the other side of this tale in the next issue. Just one more note toward that end: A review of the cumulative averages of the 1995 first year evening class revealed that almost 60% of these students achieved averages of 3.0 or better. Hopefully, in the next issue, I'll be able to reveal what percentage of that 60% were employed.

The same is true of the other side of the coin and also for the students who have an unfair advantage. First, an introduction. I am a very exhausted first year evening student who is thrilled to be in law school. Is this an oxyymoron — being thrilled and in law school? No! I'm just happy to finally, at age 27, fulfilling one of my life-long dreams.

Now to other more interesting topics such as, what is law school life like for students so special? Well in the words of one professor, "I don't know how they do it. When I went to school, I was a day student. Now, I see people like a young one professor, [s this an evening student. This is thrilling to be in law school."

"Who students who don't work? I mean it's not fair that of some of us have to handle a job while others don't work at all.

On a topic of non-working evening students.

According to Dean Feerick, the Fordham evening "program is designed to respond to a part of the world out there who cannot go to day school." He stated that every effort is made in the admissions process to provide opportunities for quality applicants who fit this profile. Since one purpose of the evening division is to provide a forum for those who must work full-time, while striving to achieve his or her legal education, it is seemingly inequitable to allow students who do not fall into the workcategory to avoid the difficulties of students whom the division was created to help.

For instance, one third year day student commented that many of the evening students he knew who did not work made Law Review. "Isn't that just one side. Perhaps some of you have a different view. Please share your thoughts by dropping a note in my mailbox. I'll do my best to state the other side of this tale in the next issue. Just one more note toward that end: A review of the cumulative averages of the 1995 first year evening class revealed that almost 60% of these students achieved averages of 3.0 or better. Hopefully, in the next issue, I'll be able to reveal what percentage of that 60% were employed.

The same is true of the other side of the coin and also for the students who have an unfair advantage.
Did you know that...
more than

440

FORDHAM LAW GRADUATES trusted
BAR/BRI
to prepare them for the
February & July 1996
New York Bar Exams

Speak to Fordham Law alumni and find out why the overwhelming majority of students choose BAR/BRI for their bar exam preparation.

Fordham Law's #1 Choice for Bar Review

Trust the POWER OF EXPERIENCE™ to Work for You