

# The Justinian

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Article 1

2005

## The Justinian

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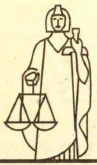
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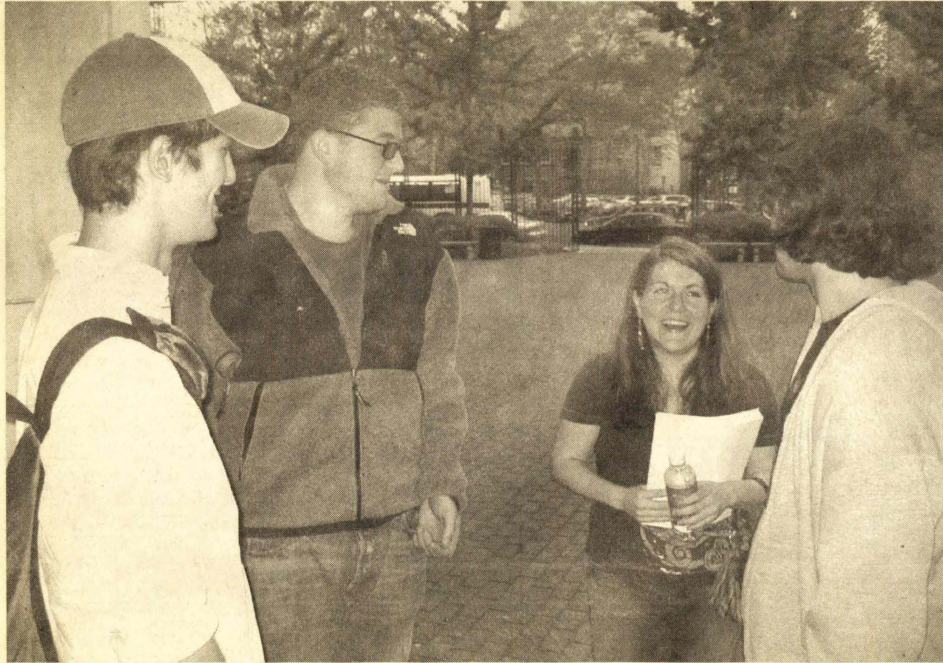
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## BLS Community Welcomes Tulane Students



Students from Tulane Law School who are now a part of the Brooklyn community hang out in front of school.  
Photo by Stephen Harris

### *adjusting to life at a new school*

Zona Sharfman

They have come to BLS from all over, each with a story to tell. In meeting with some of the 15 visiting students from Tulane, I have tried to learn about their experiences over the past weeks.

Several students told me that they did not know how serious the hurricane threats were until the last minute. If Tulane organized an evacuation, they were not aware of it. One 1L did not hear of the hurricane until 8am on Sunday morning; her first inkling that she might be in danger came when a neighbor asked to store belongings in her apartment. Many were busy getting settled into their new surroundings and adjusting to school. Some students did not have the internet or television and they heard about the hurricane only when concerned relatives called them. A few older students remembered a previous hurricane that left them without power for three days. For them, the thought of late summer in New Orleans without air conditioning was enough to warrant leaving town, but they really didn't know how bad it would be.

They left New Orleans every way imaginable. Some flew, others drove, and some like Glenn Friedman, a one 1L, even rode their bicycle to a shelter in Baton Rouge. That took about 8 hours for him, and maybe even longer for some of the people in cars. On the way out of town he stopped at a deli that had been wiped out of food except for three stuffed peppers. He eyed them until a man cut in line and tried to take all three. The manager sent them on their way with one pepper each. Janora Hawkins, another 1L, said

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### Is it True That First Year They Scare You to Death, Second Year They Work You to Death, Third Year They Bore you to Death ?

#### Life as a 2L: Is it really better?

by Heather Kalachman

8:00am: The "Z-morning Zoo" comes blasting into my room. I hit the snooze button. Roll-over.

8:09am: More Z100. I hit the snooze again. Roll-over once more.

8:18am: The last time. Cursing, I drag myself out of bed. Knowing I still need to shower, eat breakfast, choose my clothes for the day and iron, I am now running late. No, not late for some 9am first year class that I never really wanted to take in the first place, but late for my part-time job. It's only natural that I should be tired. My last class the night before ended at 9:50pm, and then I stayed up another four hours attempting, albeit ultimately failing, to complete the reading for my classes today. I have fallen behind in my studies. It is only the second week of school. If only I were a 1L again.

Throughout this past summer I had friends and family patronizing me, "Well, at least the worst part is over. This year is going to be so much easier for you." My parents, whom I spokewith nearly every day during my

#### Boomshakalaka: Life in 1L

by Elan Gershoni

Today was a good day, as far as a day in the life of a 1L goes. Today, something miraculous happened, something that has never happened to me or anyone I know. Today, after I finished rolling my laundry, I was not left with a superfluous extra sock. Life is good. However, I didn't always expect it to be this good.

Before coming to BLS as a 1L I heard nothing but nightmares about law school, especially 1L (deny that you don't still feel like weeping like a five year old killed school girl every time that you see a copy of One L). You guys have heard all the warnings, things to the effect of, "all you'll do is read," or the "competition is cutthroat" i.e. you're screwed, and my personal favorite threat that the cafeteria won't "serve white chocolate-chip macadamia nut cookies." But to all of those naysayers who made law school seem like it would be as much fun as watching Schindler's List after popping half a dozen Quaaludes and drinking a liter of Jack I offer the following rant.

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### SBA INFORMS *some new changes for the student body*

By Jodi Siegel

The SBA has been working hard since we were elected last Spring to make some beneficial changes to the school this year. We hope everyone is taking advantage of the new flat screen TV in the Student Lounge that we worked with the administration to buy. Additionally, you might have noticed that due to all the problems with the ABA-endorsed health insurance, it was taken off of the BLS website and new options were put up in its place.

The SBA continues to work with Dean Rosato on health insurance options. We hope that you all can attend Health & Wellness Day on October 11, 2005 from 12-4 in the Student Lounge. We will have different insurance vendors and local clinics there to give you information on making sure you receive the right coverage for all your needs.

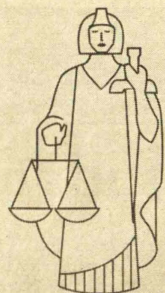
During orientation this year, the SBA sponsored a Brooklyn Cylones game event and a bar crawl which were both well attended and a lot of fun! In addition, the SBA and over 20 other student organizations co-sponsored the Hurricane Katrina Benefit which raised over \$9,000! We had drinks, casino games, raffles and music - it was a big

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# SBA KATRINA FUNDRAISER

by Stephen Harris

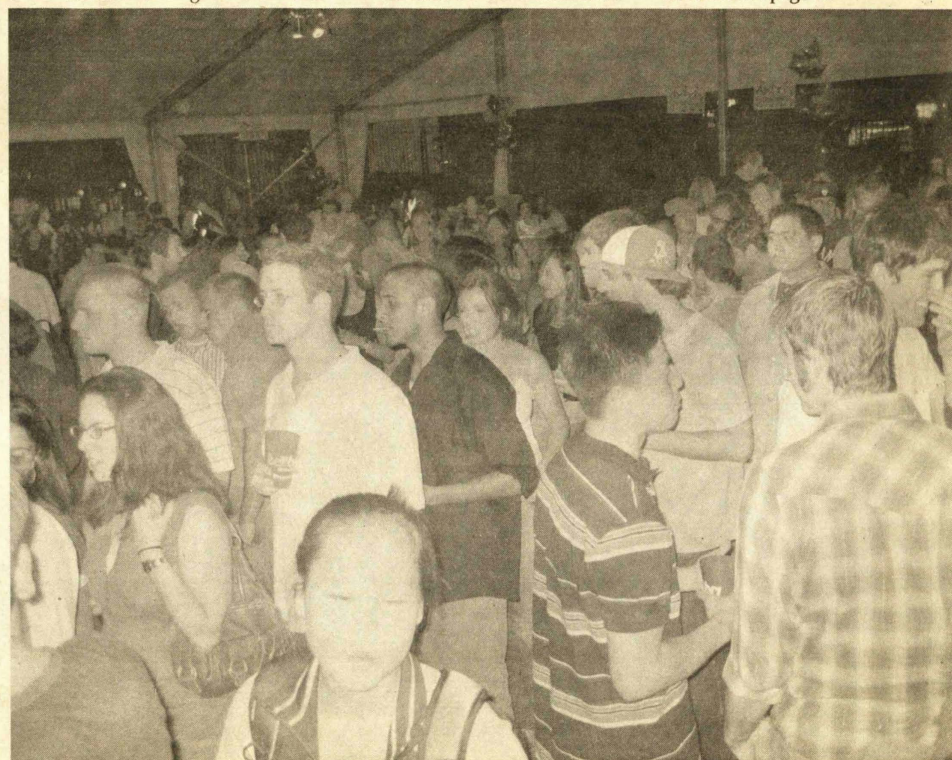
On Thursday, September 8, the Student Bar Association sponsored a hurricane relief party in the school's courtyard. The event took donations from students and gave them an

opportunity to eat, play casino card games, and enter drawings for prizes. Organizers were able to raise over eight thousand six hundred dollars, all of which was donated to the Red Cross.

Volunteers for the events includ-

ed members of the SBA and other student organizations who co-sponsored the event, as well as friends and family

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Students enjoy some refreshments at the Katrina Fundraiser

Photo by Stephen Harris

## TULANE STUDENTS: more on adjusting to life at BLS

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that traffic crawled along in one direction all the way to Jackson, MS, resulting in a drive that lasted five hours. A 3L left town before the hurricane to attend a high-school reunion, and hasn't been back since.

I asked the students what they took with them and most said the same thing. Very little. Some took a bag of clothes, others just a few outfits. One student said that in the few minutes she had to pack she inexplicably grabbed 14 pairs of shoes but forgot her passport and birth certificate. Some left behind laptops and identification. They all lost nearly everything they owned.

I was curious how the 15 visiting students ended up at BLS. Most cited nearby family or friends as a factor in coming to New York. Some had applied and been accepted before and it seemed like a comfortable fit. All of the students mentioned the kindness and determination of the staff and faculty to help them get here. Professors called the students over the weekend and would be willing to do anything to

help. Dean Rosato, Dean Chaitovsky, Andrea Gershwin, Jennifer Smith, people in the Financial Aid office and many others have all been putting in extra hours making sure that everything would come together for these students. Nearly all mentioned that Feil Hall contributed to their decision to come here. Since they do not know where they will be next semester, the flexibility of not signing a lease has been a great help, as has the fact that Feil is furnished.

For awhile it was uncertain whether Tulane would allow the 1Ls to study elsewhere. In the days after the levee broke, Tulane's Dean Ponoroff asked law schools not to accept any 1Ls. At that time Tulane thought it might be able to make other arrangements. Many students did not find out until after 5 o'clock on the Friday before Labor Day weekend that they indeed would need to enroll elsewhere. Luckily our visiting students had all anticipated that and had already confirmed their plans to come here.

The Tulane students have now been in town for two weeks. Despite some obstacles they are starting to adjust. A 3L said he felt very fortunate

to participate in a Community Development Clinic here since he had feared that would no longer be a possibility. I expected everyone to feel overwhelmed by classes after missing nearly two weeks of school. Instead, I found that they were taking the work in stride. After all that had happened over a couple of weeks, a few homework assignments were not going to get the best of them. The visiting students also mentioned that the proceeds from the ABA Silent Auction have helped them settle in.

Future plans remain uncertain. Some students might want to stay at BLS while others will return to Tulane or even go somewhere else. A 3L who misses New Orleans said, "As long as I'm not at risk for cholera, I'll go back," but others are not so sure. Right now they do not know what to expect in New Orleans when they return. Whether they are here for just a few more months or for the remainder of their legal studies, they can be sure that the students, faculty and staff at BLS will continue to make them feel at home.

The Brooklyn Law School News is a monthly publication written and produced by the students of Brooklyn Law School. The opinions herein represent the opinions of the individual article authors and do not represent the views of the student body or the administration. All students and faculty are encouraged to write. To submit articles, email them to [blsnews@brooklaw.edu](mailto:blsnews@brooklaw.edu). All articles are subject to editing and approval by the editorial board.

<http://brooklynworks.brooklaw.edu/justinian/vol2005/iss3/>



## Justice Blackmun & The Judicial Biography

by Yael Friedman

When asked why he opposed Roberts' nomination, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid commented that he had "...too many unanswered questions about the nominee to justify a vote confirming him to this enormously important lifetime position." The import of gaining a genuine glimpse into the mind of a Supreme Court nominee, or Justice, emerged as one of the main themes of a symposium that convened at BLS last Friday. It was titled: Justice Blackmun and Judicial Biography, a conversation with Linda Greenhouse, the Pulitzer-prize winning New York Times journalist whose biography of Blackmun inspired the event.

The judicial biography is perhaps the most ambitious attempt to size up such a life. As a reference point Professor Hellerstein quoted a recent statement by Judge Roberts, that "personal values have no place in constitutional adjudication." Hellerstein then rhetorically asked the panel and the audience: "What is the place of the judicial bio? What is it that they tell us - how some judges evolve and some don't? About society and how it has changed?"

Blackmun himself provided much of the material necessary to get a fuller picture of who he was, not the least of which were seminal majority opinions and dissents, including *Roe v. Wade* and *Bowers v. Hardwick*, respectively. As Greenhouse herself pointed out, opinions afford the trained eye a window into decision-making at the court and the dispositions and personalities of the Justices. They provide a transparency that few other institutions can offer about their inner workings.

However, Justice Blackmun also gave the gift that may be every biographer's dream, access to a lifelong collection of his own, rather prolific, writings (though the sheer volume may equally be every biographer's nightmare, with an index that alone numbers 500 pages).

Understandably, neither Blackmun, nor the individuals entrusted with the task of releasing this vast collection, intended for immediate universal access. Blackmun's daughter Sally, along with several others including Harold Koh, his former clerk and the present dean of Yale Law School, had the honor and burden of deciding whose eyes would first appraise and examine the papers. As Harold Koh, who attended and spoke at the symposium, explained, it is "Like finding a hundred Rembrandts in a warehouse - would you open the door and just let everyone in?"

According to Koh, the names of Nina Totenberg, the NPR legal affairs correspondent, as well as Linda Greenhouse, the Times Supreme Court Correspondent since 1978, naturally arose as candidates, with their respective works (Greenhouse's book and Totenberg's series on NPR) the resulting products of this unpre-

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cedented opportunity to pore over the unofficial history of the Supreme Court for a quarter century.

Of course, another possible window into the chambers would be the testimony of a clerk. Several of the speakers at the symposium worked as Justice Blackmun's clerks at various periods. One of those former clerks, Edward Lazarus, has the distinction - some say dubious - of having written a rather critical and thorough, "fly on the wall" account of his time as clerk for the Justice. The book caused an uproar and much controversy regarding the propriety of opening wide the doors of the supreme judiciary and hanging out its dirty laundry for the world to see. Lazarus noted that after the publication of his book, the court enforced much stricter rules of secrecy. He joked that the clerks are now subject to "lifetime omert."

Lazarus insists that his purpose for writing the book lay in what he perceived as the gross dysfunction of the court in 1988, the year of his clerkship. He wanted the rest of America to see what he saw, and hoped this would lead to change. Specifically, he alleged an abandonment of the kind of intellectual honesty and rigor necessary for sound deliberations and opinions. He seems to believe in the highest degree of transparency possible and does not feel it would have a chilling effect on decision-making. Lazarus lamented the secrecy of the court and said that "...we give all this enormous power to the Supreme Court and look to them for guidance, moral and otherwise. (We) have to be able to evaluate its decisions."

Koh, on the other hand, believes the court can remain somewhat opaque. Specifically, he does not believe that clerks should have the discretion to disclose what they see during their tenure, and said that "You give up for that year the right to be a journalist." Furthermore, Koh stressed what a minor role a clerk ultimately plays in the annals of Supreme Court history. He compared the clerk's vantage point at the court to that of the batboy during the World Series.

This kind of tension between the need for disclosure and the sort of judicial independence we accord our courts has played out considerably during the Roberts confirmation hearings. Consequently, members of either side have found it hard to get a measure of the man. Perhaps they should use what Professor Hellerstein calls the "screen test." One summer at the Aspen Institute Professor Hellerstein and his wife watched a screening of *Billy Budd*. Justice Blackmun attended as well, and Professor Hellerstein noticed that Blackmun actually started crying during the movie. It was clear that this man was moved by tales of injustice and the plight of the underdog. So, Chuck Schumer might ask, would Judge Roberts cry during a screening of *Billy Budd*?

## Linda Greenhouse Speaks About John Roberts at BLS

by David Ries

Linda Greenhouse was the featured speaker at the Brooklyn Law Review's symposium about judicial biography on September 16th, and she shared her views of Chief Justice nominee John Roberts's potential to change over time if he joins the Supreme Court. Linda Greenhouse has been a correspondent to the Supreme Court for the New York Times since 1978. Her recently published biography of Harry Blackmun is based on the newly archived personal papers of the late Supreme Court Justice, and was the inspiration for the seminar.

Greenhouse described Judge Roberts as "an insider, comfortable with the status quo," whose current opinions about the law will likely persist throughout his term. The theme

change his legal opinions. Greenhouse also contrasted Judge Roberts with Justice Clarence Thomas, whom she presented as a Justice with views identical to those he articulated as a candidate for the position. Whereas Justice Thomas has been adamant about voicing his personal legal views in his decisions, Greenhouse represented Judge Roberts as being a more reserved opinion-writer while serving on the D.C. Circuit of Appeals. Greenhouse ultimately concluded that Judge Roberts's tenure would be most like the tenure of the late Chief Justice, William Rehnquist, who was consistent in his application of his personal legal views, but who did not necessarily seek out opinions in which to voice them.

Linda Greenhouse's speech was just over 30 minutes long and was



Linda Greenhouse  
Photo courtesy of Scott Kingsley

of her keynote speech was judicial change, and she compared Judge Roberts with Justice Blackmun.

Greenhouse articulated the thesis of her biography as arguing that Blackmun's selection to author the majority opinion in *Roe v. Wade* set in motion a shift in Blackmun's legal views, while speculating that Judge Roberts would be less affected by a similar fate. Greenhouse described Judge Roberts as "more insular" than justices who have changed over the course of their tenures. Whereas Justice Blackmun moved from Illinois to join the Supreme Court, Judge Roberts's daily commute will only be extended by about six blocks if he is appointed, according to Greenhouse.

In her speech, Greenhouse compared Justice Blackmun with recently retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Justice O'Connor's opinions also changed over the course of her tenure. Like Blackmun, O'Connor relocated to Washington (from Arizona) to take her seat on the Court, and both justices were known to study law away from Washington when the Supreme Court was not in session.

Greenhouse concluded that Judge Roberts is less likely than Justice Blackmun or Justice O'Connor to

delivered in the school's Moot Court Room. She was introduced by the Dean of Brooklyn Law School, Joan Wexler, who alluded to the fortuitous timing of the symposium without explicitly mentioning Judge Roberts or his confirmation hearings. After the speech Greenhouse was joined by a panel of speakers that included BLS's own Professors Susan Herman and Jason Mazzone.

Greenhouse's book is titled *Becoming Justice Blackmun* and, according to her speech, the broad shift in the Supreme Court Justice's jurisprudence over the course of his tenure is one of two of the book's major themes. The other is the relationship between Harry Blackmun and the late Chief Justice Warren Burger. The two were childhood friends, each the other's best man and they corresponded often while each served on separate Circuit Courts of Appeal, but their relationship gradually worsened after Blackmun's appointment to the Supreme Court. Greenhouse was the first to have access to Blackmun's papers.



## COMING HOME: Students Turned Professors

by Stephen Vargas

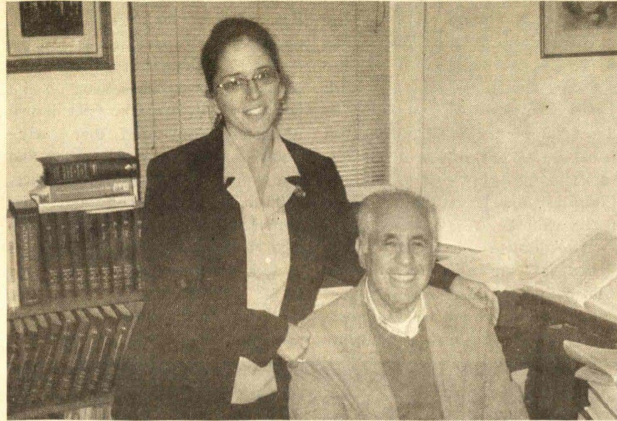
For some current professors at Brooklyn Law School, becoming a member of the full-time faculty was simply a return home.

Professors Joseph Crea, Richard Farrell, Linda Feldman, Martin Houghtman, Claire Kelly, Robert Pitler,

School, Professor Hauptman authored *Federal Taxation - Compendium of Federal Income, Estate and Gift Taxation* in

1969 and *Analyses of Income Tax Provisions of Economic Tax Recovery Act of 1981* for the Brooklyn Bar Association.

Professor Feldman, Director of



Professors Kelly and Crea  
Photo by Stephen Harris

Robyn Schneider, Lisa Smith, and Carrie Teicher attended BLS as students, and today as professors share their knowledge and experiences with students who may one day join them as members of the faculty.

Professor Crea is the senior member of this distinguished group, having taught at BLS since 1947. An Emeritus Professor of Law, Professor Crea was rewarded for his contributions to the school by having the Joseph Crea Dean chair named in his honor. He has an extensive list of accolades, including serving on the Mayor's Committee for the Selection

Educational Services, attended BLS when only 25% of the students were women. She found the strong professor-student relationship to be one of the school's greatest qualities: "You just walked around to see which professors were in his or her offices," Professor Feldman said. "We often met [with professors] in the basement cafeteria because unlike some law schools which separate faculty from students, Brooklyn did not, and still does not, have a faculty cafeteria."

She also said that professors routinely stayed after evening classes, which ended as late as 10 PM, to chat



Professor Feldman  
Photo by Stephen Harris

of Marshals.

Professor Farrell has been a member of the faculty since 1964. A specialist in evidence, Professor Farrell is the editor of *Prince, Richardson on Evidence*, the leading New York evidence treatise published in 2005. He currently teaches New York Civil Practice and Evidence.

Having joined the BLS acuity in 1965, Professor Hauptman teaches Accounting and Taxation classes. In addition to his work at the Law

and discuss the law with students.

Professor Teicher attended BLS from 1978-1981, when notes were taken by hand or, for the more fortunate, by an IBM "Selectric" typewriter. At the time, there was no student housing, and 1 Boerum Place was not a part of the Brooklyn Law facilities. All activities were conducted at 250 Joralemon Street, including Law Review, the International Law Journal, and Moot Court. The sole pay phone was located on the seventh

## BLS Blawgs: On-line Journals by Students

by Hani Sarji

Student journals record experiences at Brooklyn Law School. These journals are available on-line for anyone to read. Journal entries, or articles, provide information and gossip. Articles share genuine emotions, complain often, and sometimes make readers laugh. There are articles about law school experience in general, about the infrastructure at BLS (elevators, classroom sizes, bathrooms), and about experiences with specific professors. Although they are available for all to read, the audience of student journals is other BLS students.

On-line journals are still a new means for communication, but already there is a growing lexicon to describe them. On-line journals are generally called "blogs," which is short for "weblog." A draft article in the OED dates the word "blog" to 1999. An even more recent neolo-

gism, "blawg," refers particularly to blogs by "by lawyers, law professors, or law students, or which discuss law and legal affairs." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blawgers>). A writer to a general blog is called a "blogger," and writer to a blawg is called a "blawger."

A blog is similar to a dinner party where a host dictates conversation topics. Everyone is welcome to attend this party, and anyone can participate in the discussion. Blogs are a hybrid between on-line forums and websites. Blogs are like forums because other users can comment on articles. Blogs are like websites because they can incorporate words and pictures. Also, articles can have hyperlinks that zap readers to other articles and websites. The hyperlinks lead to greater depth on an article, to a picture that reinforces an idea, or to

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Professor Farrell  
Photo by Stephen Harris

floor, outside the Moot Court room.

Now a Legal Writing instructor, Professor Teicher was not as fortunate as Legal Writing students have been since the birth of the Legal Writing Program in 1980: "On my first day of legal writing I was given a packet of papers and was told to 'go write something.' That was it. I was on my own," said Professor Teicher of her experience in 1978.

Upon joining the faculty in 1984, Professor Teicher made a comfortable transition to life as a professor rather than a student, with one exception: "My colleagues and former professors were very welcoming and encouraging," Professor Teicher said. "It took some time before I could consider Professor Crea a 'colleague' - I suppose I will always think of myself as his student."

Professor Kelly joined the faculty in 1997 as a Legal Writing instructor, but currently teaches a number of courses including Civil Procedure and International Trade Law. "As a student I was struck by the fact that BLS was an extremely friendly place,"

Professor Kelly said. "The professors had an open-door policy and seemed genuinely interested in the students."

Professor Kelly enjoys spending time in the library, a resource which she did not have during her time as a student. She also looks forward to speaking with students in the "open-door, collegial atmosphere."

Today, students enjoy the comforts of Feil Hall, the school's new student housing building, a tremendous asset to BLS. After a recent tour of the building, Professor Kelly was "stunned" by the "fantastic" living facilities. In earlier years, BLS was entirely a commuter school.

Regardless of the myriad changes that have taken place over the past hundred years, Professor Feldman continues to enjoy spending time in the environment created at Brooklyn Law School: "While BLS's physical plant is so different now, the feeling at BLS is much the same, although now I view it from the other side of the podium."



do you have  
health insurance?  
do you need  
health insurance?  
**COME TO SBA'S  
WELLNESS DAY!!**  
October 11  
12-4  
Student Lounge  
and get information!

## LIFE AS A 2L

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first year, repeated that to me on many occasions. I haven't had time to call them in over a week. Between a full course-load of classes that run the gambit filling up my mornings, afternoons and evenings, working at an internship 12 hours a week (as opposed to being encouraged not to work during the first year), and trying to keep abreast of the lengthy and dense reading assignments, I find I have already burned myself out. "Did I really read this much last year? Were the topics this difficult to grasp?" I find myself thinking constantly.

Wondering if I was alone in my misgivings about second year, I polled a small sample of 2Ls to get their input (89 of the 422 full-time students). I am of the opinion that many student are in agreement with me, as I have often walked down the hall hearing a 2L say, "Man, I can't believe how much work we have this year. I thought this year was supposed to be better..." Here is what I discovered:

- Students who always read for class as 1Ls (45/89) are now reading only 75% of the time (39/89). Most students are no longer briefing cases even though they did as 1Ls (38/89 vs. 77/89).

- Students are spending less time on schoolwork (only 10-15 hours as 2Ls vs. 15-20 or even 20+ as 1Ls) and more time at work (12/89 students working an average of 9 hours a week as 1Ls vs. 40/89 students working an average of 21 hours a week as 2Ls).

- Lastly, students overwhelmingly find there is at least the same or more work as a 2L than as a 1L (62/89), and a little less than half actu-

ally say second year is more difficult (43/89).

\*This was not a scientific survey and the accuracy of these results cannot be guaranteed, as exemplified by the student "Ben Dover," who claimed that he studied 10,000 hours a week as a 1L and is now, as a 2L, a partner at a large firm.

One student commented that first year was more difficult "because this year I am actually interested in my classes," while in contrast Benjamin Moore, 2L, remarked that "I think second year is more challenging than first year simply because it is less structured, and if you have other obligations combined with the increased expectations of professors, it makes it more challenging."

Overall, it seems that most 2Ls believe there is no shortage of schoolwork this year. One 2L (who wishes to remain anonymous) stated it best: "First year they scare you, second year they work you, and third year they bore you." She added that "as a 2L there is no time to adjust, they just hit you with work - and then you might have job interviews, moot court and/or journal." These additional activities which many of us did not have to deal with as first year students, along with the pressure of longer assignments and denser materials could make any student want for just a moment of relaxation. Many students feel they have just as much work, or even more than they did as 1Ls. And while some would agree with my parents that the second year is "so much easier," there is a definitely a strong consensus of 2Ls crying out from behind their casebooks, "If only I could be a 1L again."

## Jean Marie Hackett joins the BLS staff



Ms. Hackett enjoys the BLS courtyard  
Photo by Stephen Harris

by Cindy Shu

Originally from Long Island, Jean Marie Hackett graduated from Amherst College in Massachusetts with degrees in Political Science and French. During college, she developed interest in a legal career after a summer internship at a law firm and friends' encouragement. After graduation, she worked as a paralegal for Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom LLP for a year. During her tenure at the law firm, she became impressed by the attorneys, and started to get even more serious about becoming a lawyer herself. A year later, she was enrolled at University of Virginia School of Law. For approximately two years post law school, prior to coming to BLS, Hackett worked as a Litigation Associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom LLP.

Her decision to take the job at BLS was influenced by a number of factors. Having been from New York, she was excited to return to the area. In addition, the position offered her a chance to do something different with her law degree. A number of her family members were in the education field as teachers and principals in public

schools. She was happy to combine her background in law and education. Most of all, she was impressed by the three deans during her interview. She had such a great time that when she was offered the job, she took it.

When asked what her job responsibilities are, she said, "I'm the new Tom Parker." Her title is officially Director of the Office of Student Affairs, and she handles a variety of things from joint-degree programs, study abroad programs, moderating BLS announce, accommodations for students with disabilities for classes, exams, and any academic or personal concerns a student may have. When asked what she wanted the student body to know about her, she answered, "Law school can be a stressful but rewarding experience. I am here and you should not hesitate to come by if there are any concerns." Having been a law student not so long ago herself, she feels that she can understand and help address many issues a student may bring up. In addition, Hackett would like to see an improvement in communication between the administration and the students. The BLS News welcomes Ms. Hackett to the Brooklyn Law School community!



Photo by Stephen Harris



# Creative Writing Section: A Divergence From Law School

everything in this section has been subject to editing

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The glass doors that formed the entrance to Worley High School looked different today than they did twenty-five years ago. For a moment, she had a thought to ask someone where the principal's office was, not because she didn't know but because she just wanted to talk to someone, anyone. Being alone was the worst thing she could imagine right now. Looking around, she didn't see anyone she recognized, though she was sure one of James' friends would be around somewhere. They'd been by the house many times in recent days. Yet she knew that time was passing quickly; the condolence cards would stop, the phone would go silent, the visits would end, the world would go on without her, and without James.

The last time she'd been to Mr. Williams' office, he had congratulated her on James' exceptional performance on the state English exam. Somehow she remembered the entire conversation, even though it should have felt like ages ago as she peered through the open door to see the principal seated at his desk.

He looked up and saw her immediately. "Linda," he said, rising and walking toward the door, "good to see you." He stepped toward the door and gave Linda a friendly hug. "How are you? Are you holding up OK?"

"Yea, I'm fine," she replied appreciatively; not entirely true, but relatively speaking, it would do for now. "Just...have to take care of these things." She held up and nodded toward the red Worley Soccer gym bag that she held in her left hand. It was empty. The numeral 7 had been emblazoned on it by hand in black permanent marker.

"Right. Come with me, it's number 105."

They stepped into the long and nearly-empty corridor, a few scattered voices echoing off the terrazzo floors and ceramic-tiled walls. For a moment, out of the corner of her eye, Linda thought she saw two young boys playfully kicking about the soccer ball that had been left at the base of the wall by the school entrance. They were laughing and taunting one another. A loud voice shouted, "Hey!" from an invisible place, then followed, "What's the matter with you?" She wasn't sure what followed. She hoped she had been mistaken, that she hadn't really seen what she thought she had seen. She couldn't have. They couldn't have.

Linda nodded as they turned left into an adjacent corridor. 80...81...82... In the corner, a boy and a girl stood amorously close together, his head above hers, his arm leaning up against the wall as they whispered to each other, oblivious to the passing adults. The boy, Linda thought, looked a little like James. He was tall, somewhat gaunt but in an athletic sort of way, with a dark, ruddy complexion and sharp facial features. He had thick, arched eyebrows, like James; deep brown eyes, like James; a few thin, dark chin-whiskers, like James. Even his hair was long; not as long as James', not long enough to cascade down the back of his neck, nor to require a headband to keep the flowing brown locks out of his eyes, but enough to suggest a resemblance. He didn't have James' smile, though. No one did.

"We'll definitely miss that smile of his," said Mr. Williams, as if he'd just read Linda's mind.

Linda grinned and suddenly felt sad. She turned and looked back at the boy, watched him kiss his girl and then turned away, a little embarrassed. She felt tears begin to well in her eyes and quickly wiped them dry. She was not going to do this now, not today, not here.

"Here it is, 105," said Mr. Williams as they stopped in front of the locker door festooned with notes, cards, photos and other expressions of grief. A black-dialed Master padlock hung idly from the latch, just where he'd left it last Friday afternoon. Linda stared at it for a long moment and found herself curiously moved by it. It was such an ordinary object, one among hundreds of identical units securing the belongings of scores of Worley students, but this was the first thing she'd seen in the building that was his, that had belonged to him. She couldn't help but imagine him squeezing it closed for the last time, on Monday.

Mr. Williams interrupted her thoughts, "Alright, let me go find a custodian to get maybe having forgotten something inside, perhaps already thinking about the Friday night fun he and his friends had planned, and certainly expecting to dial up the combination again some bolt cutters. Do you want to wait here?"

"Yes," she replied immediately. "That'll give me a chance to read some of these messages." Hesitantly, almost afraid to read the messages and feel the grief and sadness that was sure to accompany them, she stepped back toward the locker and began to read one particular message. As she did, a pair of girls stopped in front of a locker, about thirty feet away. [In] the near-empty hallway it was impossible not to hear them. Neither of them looked familiar. They were pretty young things, or at least one of them was; tall, blonde, slim, wearing a revealing white halter-top with bare midriff and tight-fitting, low-cut jeans. The other, somewhat shorter and rather more full-figured, had freckles and straight brown hair tied back in a ponytail, and was dressed as if she'd just come from softball practice; pretty in a different sort of way. They both looked for all the world like typical suburban high school girls. There was nothing remarkable or exceptional about either one of them.

Suddenly, however, their conversation grabbed Linda's attention. The tall blonde asked her companion, "Did you go to that thing they had for James on Tuesday?" Her tone of voice had changed on the word "thing," as if it was the only word she could think of to describe something patently absurd, and she had hit the name "James" particularly hard, as if it added to the absurdity of the "thing."

The other girl replied, "No," in a forceful voice that seemed to endow the word with three syllables, and imply that the blonde's suggestion was even more absurd than the "thing" itself.

"Me neither," replied the blonde, "it was, like, so stupid."

"I know, like, everybody gets so crazy just because somebody died."

"Yeah, you know, like, get over it."

good day  
bad day

by Sarah West

happy, laughing, partying,  
sad, sulking, sleeping,

manic, ecstatic, excited,  
depressive, emotional, scared,

idealistic, hopeful, dreaming,  
realistic, pessimistic, sighing,

comfortable, content, understood,  
unsure, unfit, misunderstood,

numb.  
numb.



Their words flew rapid-fire through the stale air, ricocheted off the walls and battered Linda's ears. She closed her eyes and turned away, trying to keep from raising her voice to introduce herself and scold the two young teens. Would they be talking like that if they knew who I was, if they knew I was standing here?

"I can't believe people put all this ugly crap on the walls. It looks so crappy."

"I know, like, somebody put a soccer ball and a candle on the floor. That's like, just so stupid."

"When are they going to take all this down?"

The sad thing is, Linda thought, yes, they probably would.

She thought she could shield herself from these girls by reading the messages taped to James' locker. Moving her face close to the surface, she examined one of them intensely, focusing on its words.

*TO THE EARLY LOST AND NEVER FORGOTTEN, YOUR LIGHT STILL SHINES ON OUR MEMORIES. R.I.P. JAMES, I MISS YOU.*

"I heard he was, like, totally drunk. He was doing, like, eighty."

*James - A camp legend, a soccer legend, and most of all, simply a good guy. R.I.P. You were taken too young and we all mourn for you.*

"The car was, like, totally wrecked. His parents must be so pissed that he wrecked the Lexus. That was such a cool car. It sucks that he wrecked it."

*James, I can't stand the fact that I'll never see you again. I never really got to give you a proper goodbye, and I'm taking this as my chance to do so.... James I'll miss you, camp will miss you, God loves you, your in God's hands... love you... RIP*

"He's lucky the other guys didn't get killed too. You know, they could, like, sue his parents or something, if they wanted to. I mean, it was their car, he was driving, right? They could sue them."

*James your my boy and always will be. Your always gonna be the pimp rockin your sweat band with your crazy hair, and thats exactly why your James, because your the biggest leader I know. I miss you kid and so does everyone else.*

"He was such an ugly kid, too. I mean, like, get a haircut already. Who wears their hair like that? He looked so stupid, I swear."

*To someone whom I've never had the honor to really get to know Were all sad that you had to go It's hard to lose someone who everyone loved But know that they're always with us up above You were one of the best soccer players I've ever seen And on top of that you were only 17... R.I.P. James - we'll all miss you 3/11/87-5/8/04*

"I just wish people would stop crying over it, it's like, so depressing to come in here and this is all you hear about. I just, like, don't want to come to school because I don't want to hear about James, James, James."

The sentiments duelled in Linda's mind as she pored over the notes. She had promised herself she wouldn't, but uncontrollably, inevitably, she began to weep, muffling her sobs with her hands so as not to attract the attention of the two girls.

Suddenly she heard footsteps and the booming voice of Mr. Williams. "Let's go, girls," he said, "you've got to get out of the hallway." [Linda] hurriedly dried her eyes with her sleeve and picked up the gym bag as Mr. Williams approached, along with a stocky, bearded man in a blue utility jumpsuit bearing a large pair of red-handled bolt cutters.

Mr. Williams pointed the locker out and then turned to Linda, "are you OK?"

Still flushed and unable to hide her tears, she replied, "Yes... I'm... I was..."

"You sure you want to do this now? You can come back whenever you want."

"No, no, it's fine, I was just... There were..." She glanced over to where the girls had been standing and thought about making a gesture in that direction. Instead she looked up at Mr. Williams and said, "These notes and poems are beautiful. Please don't throw them out; please save them for me when you take them down."

"Of course," Mr. Williams replied.

The bolt cutters made a loud BANG as they snipped the hardened steel arch of the padlock, startling Linda and causing her to jump slightly and place her hand on her chest. As the custodian lifted the broken padlock from its perch and reached for the latch on the locker door, Linda glanced once more at the spot where the girls had been, then took a deep breath and prepared herself for the sight of what her only child had left in his high school locker on the last day of his life.

## By the elevator door

by Frank Shloegel

By the elevator door  
there is a copy  
of the wall street journal  
and a young man standing  
in a suit with no tie  
his neck is sweating  
his eyes glazed over and red  
He just vomited out on the street  
And he is going to be the first one  
into the office this morning

## Downtown

by Frank Shloegel

Downtown  
On Broadway  
There is a place people take their lunches  
They've bought them at delis and salad bars and au bon pain  
They take their soups and salads and sandwiches  
Then they go sit in a cemetery  
Right across the street from the hole in the ground  
Where the world trade center used to be  
And they sit by themselves  
And they eat in the silence of the city  
You know the cranes and the people and the cars  
And they eat their little lunches in the shade of the trees in the cemetery  
Right on Broadway  
You can see the hole in the ground  
They are secretaries and legal aides and other low-level business people  
And in silence in the cemetery they eat take out



# SHOWING A NEW FACE:

## What Feil Hall Means For the Future of BLS

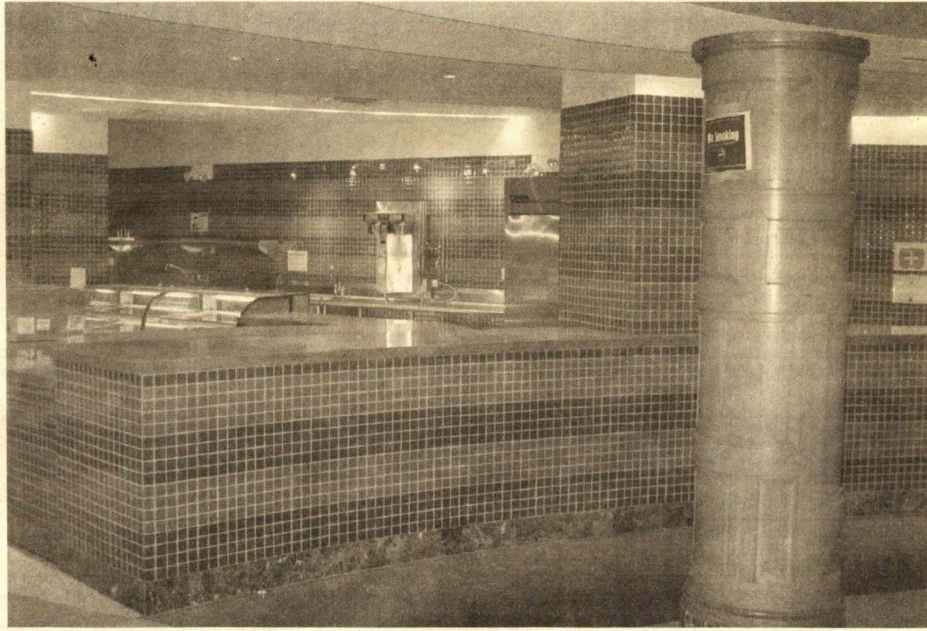
By Marjan Foruzani

A ribbon-cutting ceremony commenced the official opening of Feil Hall at 4:30 pm on Thursday, September 29, 2005. The dedication involved tours of the residence hall, snacks at Geraldo's café, and the chance to take in the panoramic view of New York Harbor and lower Manhattan while sipping on drinks and enjoying hors d'oeuvres at a reception in the Forchelli Conference Center on the top floor.

Dean Joan Wexler referred to the dedication of Feil Hall as a landmark event in the history of Brooklyn Law School. Such a comment can hardly be taken lightly. The opening of the residence hall implies two very important changes for Brooklyn Law. One comes in the form of material change, as Feil Hall creates an entirely new appeal to the law school, turning heads both locally and nationally. The second change will be seen in the dynamics of both the classroom and the student body.

The new residence hall has already been featured in the New York Law Journal, described as "hardly a smelly-socks dormitory" with "luxury accommodations" that "rival those found in New York City's finest neighborhoods." The appeal of these "luxury accommodations" comes in the spacious L-shaped studios, which feature large terraces and were the first to fill up. Apartments on the higher floors offer over-sized windows that contain sweeping views of Brooklyn, the Verrazano Bridge, and lower Manhattan.

Simply reflecting on the num-



The Recently opened Geraldo's Cafe in Feil Hall  
Photo by Stephen Harris

ber of tours she has given, Jennifer Smith can attest to the fact that Feil Hall has sparked considerable interest among Brooklyn alumni. Smith says that the alumni simply see the building and shake their heads in amazement, thinking of the troubles they went through in having to commute to school everyday. During a tour of a four-bedroom unit on the 16th floor, one alumni member even commented: "You can work as an attorney in Manhattan for several years and never get an office as nice as this."

From a student's perspective, having a fully-furnished apartment, a full kitchen, a laundry room located within your building, and the YMCA right across the street makes for an easy transition to the city, especially for students coming to Brooklyn from outside the state. Not to mention the sense of security that comes with being located only a couple of blocks away from the law school and a 24-hour security desk that requires every resident to show ID upon entering the building—even if they have seen you a

thousand times before. This, from a parent's perspective is perhaps the most important factor, especially considering the look of fear that probably first passed through their eyes at the thought of their son or daughter moving to Brooklyn.

Located on the first floor of Feil Hall, Geraldo's café is open to all Brooklyn Law students, serving coffee, soup, salad, and sandwiches. Seating is provided both inside and outside, with a capacity of about 97 people. Three large flat screens and a stage transform the cafe into a venue for such events as the Student Bar Association's beer and pizza nights and rumored karaoke nights. The cafe, as well as the Forchelli Center, can be reserved by students for special events.

If karaoke nights don't attract students to Geraldo's, perhaps a guest appearance every now and then by Geraldo Rivera himself will entice people to spend time in the cafe. The 1969 Brooklyn Law School graduate and famous journalist and television host, donated \$1 million to Feil Hall, and as the plaque states under the neon blue Geraldo's sign at the entrance to the café, his contribution was responsible for its construction.

Rivera told the New York Law Journal the cafe will provide a place where "students can come together as a community and share ideas, and discuss and debate the issues that will shape their lives...I hope that from time to time I'll be able to drop by and join in." If such ideas and issues are anything like those discussed by Rivera himself throughout his controversial journalism and television career, then Brooklyn Law School is definitely in for a treat.



The new designs of the front lobby of Feil Hall

Photo by Stephen Harris

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# On-line Journals by Students

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a conversation happening at another blog. Articles on a blog are organized chronologically and have a vertical layout on the screen. The newest article is at the top and older articles are below. Because of hyperlinks, however, blogs also have a horizontal aspect. Blogs are easier to create and maintain than websites, and because writers and commentators post many times every day, their contents change faster than that of websites.

Blogs are flexible. Writers can post under their own name—for a BLS example, see Professor Seltzer's blog. To students attending law school, the most appealing aspect of on-line journals has to be the ability to post under a pseudonym. Anonymity allows the host (and other contributors) to be candid and inappropriate.

Although they are generally frowned upon because they are informal, blogs have recently gained much acclaim. Because of their ability to spread news quickly, blogs have been used by politicians and against them. For example, they helped Howard Dean raise money. In contrast, in 2002 talkingpointsmemo.com, a liberal blog by Micah Marshall, began an investigation into Trent Lott's comments on segregation. The negative news eventually led to Lott's resignation. Blogs do not just spread news fast, they are written from the bottom-up. Usually, there are no editors. They have the ability to report news before the professional media, and to uncover the truth behind false stories reported by professionals. Recently, right wing blogs--Powerline, Little Green Footballs, and Free Republic--found errors in a "60 Minutes" report regarding President Bush's service in the Air National Guard.

Blogs are a means for communication that is limited only by the imaginations of writers. Before reading blogs, many wonder why they should invest time reading and contributing to the endless conversations. BLS blogs are entertaining. They are also useful because they are informative. Although articles are subjective and written in a conversational style, the experiences of the writers are worth noting. For example, readers can get insight into the teaching methods of professors. Also,

by reading about the joy, pleasure, fear, and anxiety of their peers, students can feel less isolated. Blogs by BLS students create a community; the shared experiences create a feeling of belonging.

## BLS BLOGS

Although the list below is not comprehensive, it is a start. Blogs change daily and new ones are created every day.

## GENERAL BLOGS:

### BrookLawTalk

<http://www.brooklawtalk.com/>

BrookLawTalk states that it is "The unofficial message board of Brooklyn Law School." This blog uses a special software, Drupal, which means that contributors have to register before they can post comments. BrookLawTalk is unique because it also provides a more traditional forum where registered users can start their own conversation threads.

## Menlove

Although the description of this writer's Menlovian blog reads "incoherent and idiotic inanity from the dumbest 1L at brooklyn law school," this writer is now a 2L. Menlove's description of his first month as a 1L at BLS is witty because the is presented in the format of a case brief, which is titled "Menlove v. The Professors of BLS."

A humorous entry relates Menlove's experience in a study group <http://menlovian.blogspot.com/2004/10/tribe-has-spoken.html>. Perhaps the funniest article written is about Menlove's use of a bathroom at Brooklyn Law School. <http://menlovian.blogspot.com/2005/02/dont-read-this.html>

Overall, Menlove is one of the funniest BLS bloggers. Since students were so curious to discover his identity last year, Menlove offered disclosure as long as readers contributed \$1500 to Africare. Amazingly, students rose to the challenge and surpassed the required amount!

Details can be found at: <http://bbsforgood.blogspot.com/>

## BLOGS BY PROFESSORS

### WENDY.SELTZER.ORG: LEGAL TAGS THE BLOG

<http://wendy.seltzer.org/blog/>

This blog is maintained by Professor Seltzer, a visiting professor at BLS. She is teaching Internet Law and Information Privacy. For more about Professor Seltzer, read her description at the BLS website (<http://www.brooklaw.edu/faculty/visitors/#325>). Professor Seltzer also has a website where she shares her experiments with photography (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wseltzer/>).

## OTHER LINKS

"The Art of Blogging - Part 1" -- by George Siemens  
[http://www.elearnspace.org/Articles/blogging\\_part\\_1.htm](http://www.elearnspace.org/Articles/blogging_part_1.htm)

"The Blog Phenomenon" -- by John C. Dvorak  
<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,81500,00.asp>



## BLOGS BY STUDENTS

### Broochtastic Noise

<http://www.thecraptain.blogspot.com/>

This blog did not receive much attention at the time it was maintained. The last entry dates to August 15, 2005. "Saucy Intruder," the writer, now contributes to "Oh, Bitter Dicta."

### Doubting Socrates by a 1L:

<http://doubtingsocrates.blogspot.com/>

### The greatest people ever 2L:

<http://greatestpeopleever.blogspot.com>

### Oh, Bitter Dicta

<http://bitterdicta.blogspot.com/>

Writers from Intermeddler, Menlove, and Broochtastic Noise joined forces on this blog to chronicle their second year.

Other Information: A description about practicing for moot court

### That's a Lawsuit

<http://thatsalawsuit.blogspot.com/>

A blog by a 1L. An entry titled "A student group will feed me lunch everyday this week" received much attention.

"Can Bloggers Strike It Rich?" -- by Adam L. Penenber

[http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,68934,00.html?tw=wn\\_to\\_phead\\_1](http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,68934,00.html?tw=wn_to_phead_1)

"How to Write a Better Weblog" -- by Dennis A. Mahoney  
<http://www.alistapart.com/stories/writebetter/>

"Weblogs: A History and Perspective" -- Rebecca Blood  
[http://www.rebeccablood.net/essays/weblog\\_history.html](http://www.rebeccablood.net/essays/weblog_history.html)

## SBA STILL INFORMING

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hit!! We were able to hold this event outside under the tent that was set up for the First Year Party.

Earlier this month, we elected new 1L SBA Delegates. I would like to congratulate them and welcome them to the SBA. The new delegates are: Jaclyn Greenstein, Pooja Agarwal, Nick Reiter, Rachel Ehrhardt, Joe Goljan, Traci Strickland, Nicholas Hector, Anthony Leonardi, Dana Gremaux, John Deverna, Hani Sarji and Jacob Skousen! 1Ls can look forward

ward to a party directly following your Blue Book examination, which the delegates will put together!

To get a little of your aggression out, join your classmates at Packer Institute where every Sunday night the SBA rents two open basketball courts. Besides being a good source of exercise, it is definitely a better alternative than doing your homework! We hope to see you at all of our events this semester and as always please stop by our office on the 5th Floor, Room 509 or email me at [Jodi.Siegel@brooklaw.edu](mailto:Jodi.Siegel@brooklaw.edu).

## Editor's Note:

To all of our readers:

If you have any comments on any of the articles in this issue, we would love to hear from you. Please email any responses to [BLSnews@brooklaw.edu](mailto:BLSnews@brooklaw.edu). Additionally, if you are interested in writing an article please let us know. We are looking forward to a great semester and hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

The BLS News



# Student Bar Association Katrina Fundraiser



Students enjoy a game of blackjack at the tables in the courtyard during the Katrina fundraiser  
Photo by Stephen Harris

continued from page 2

members of students who heard about the event and wanted to participate.

Each one dollar raffle ticket could be used to enter into a drawing for prizes, which included items such as gift certificates to local restaurants and BLS merchandise donated by the bookstore. There were also drawings for both Westlaw and Lexus points. A

few BLS students charitably donated items such as tickets to a Yankees game and a DVD player. One of the most anticipated prizes was offered by the school's library – the winner receiving guaranteed access to a library study room for 2 weeks during final exams.

Bar/Bri donated two gift certificates valued at twelve hundred and fifty dollars each. The certificates go towards paying for the review courses that the service offers. One auction

was won by a student for a bid of one thousand dollars, and a student walked away with the other for eight hundred dollars.

For a donation of five dollars students received a cup of beer, which could be refilled. In order to keep costs down, the cups were also provided by Bar/Bri. The Brazen Head, a local bar located on Atlantic Avenue, donated a keg of beer for the event.

For only two dollars students could buy twenty dollars worth of

casino chips, which they could then use to try their hand at blackjack and poker tables. The amounts won by the top three students were then matched by the SBA. Over sixteen hundred dollars of the total amount was raised in this way.

According to the SBA, word about the fundraiser quickly spread. Donations have continued to come in since the party, which has added several hundred dollars to the amount raised.

## PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS:

*Looking for a study partner, friend, or more?  
Answer an ad or place your personal ad here:*

### Student 1

Fun loving 2L seeking W/F to escape from school. Know many great spots in Manhattan.

### Student 2

Socially awkward 1L realizing he is attractive in the law school setting seeking same.

### Student 3

2L just landed a summer associate position. No more motivation to study, but extremely interested in exploring New York City and making up for lost time.

### Student 4

Are you into some guaranteed class action? Would you like to be my majority shareholder? If you promise not to escheat on me, I may be ex parteing with you.

### Student 5

Do the FRCP get you hot? 1L F seeks M (any year) for joinder.

### Student 6

2L seeking other 2Ls to study together. Must be willing to go from study to stupor.

### Student 7

3L seeking W/F to share in real cuisine (school cafeteria is not cutting it) and classier drinks (classier than O'Keefe's).

### Student 8

2L seeking female to take dance classes together. Willing to learn anything from square dance to salsa. Height is 5'9".

### Student 9

Does the word proxy sound kinky? If so, I may be your future interest. Hobbies include debting, ADR, and structured settlement -- all over drinks at Gerald's.

If you are interested in any of the students and would like to respond to one (or more!) of the ads email us at [BLSnews@brooklaw.edu](mailto:BLSnews@brooklaw.edu) Make sure you include the number of the student whose ad you would like to respond to and your contact information. We will pass along your information to the student.

If you would like to place an ad, email us and we will include you in the next issue of BLS News.



# The Hype of Horror in Law School

By Marjan Foruzani

Almost every first-year law student begins fall semester with a sense of fear. As an incoming student at any law school, the first week of classes is filled with nothing more than the anticipation of ridiculous amounts of reading, merciless professors who will employ the Socratic method simply for their own entertainment, and ruthless classmates waiting at the edge of their seats to take advantage of that very moment when you are singled out for a question you do not know to jump in with the answer they so confidently believe they possess.

In fact, it is this fear that has created quite the market for anxious students worrying they will be unable to survive law school. A simple subject search on 'law school,' within the Amazon or Barnes and Noble websites, will produce anywhere from 300 to over 700 results. While many of these results include books geared towards the admissions process, a vast majority of the other results will provide you with gripping titles such as: *Slaying the Law School Dragon: How to Survive—and Thrive—in First-Year Law School* and *Guerilla Tactics For Law School Academic Success*.

Considering the horror stories and myths conveyed to entering students about law school, it is easy to see how such books make it to publication. A survey of the 2005 entering class at Brooklyn Law School was conducted to see just what these stories are and where they come from. The following represent just a few of the myths and stories circulating among entering students and keeping those in their first year on the brink of a nervous breakdown.

1. "My brother told me the craziest story I heard about law school:

He said people would take other classmates out, order repetitive rounds of shots and would PRETEND

to take them (meanwhile throwing them over their back), so that the next day they would be in good condition for classes, homework, etc. and his/her classmates would be hung-over. The bottom line is: law students are ruthless in the game to get ahead! Beware!"

2. "I was told by a friend who had started law school last year that I shouldn't get married or even have a girlfriend while in law school, because without those things, law school was enough to make me go bald and that any hair I would have left would turn grey."

3. "Law school professors pick on one student for the entire class, asking question after excruciating question, in the "Socratic Method," until the student breaks down and goes insane."

4. "I had heard that whenever a library research assignment is given, there are students who go the library and tear up the pages with a razor so that other students are not able to find the cases. I heard it from one of my pre-law professors at Pace University."

5. "I heard that one kid went into his roommate's room around finals time and deleted all his roommate's class notes because he wanted to remain at the top of the class. I heard that from a BLS student."

In an effort to verify the truth of such myths, several second and third-year students at Brooklyn Law were questioned as to what their worst experiences have been while in law school. The typical response was: "I can't really think of one." Therefore, the moral of this story is, law school is not easy, but don't go bald over it. Perhaps that precious loan money can be better spent on your nights out rather than in hopes of slaying that law school dragon or sharpening those guerilla tactics.

# Continuing the Boomshakalaka

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First off, law school has not proven to feel like an incessant drone that is slowly but surely eating away at my cotton candy soul. Rather than committing myself to a daily quadruple espresso driven regimen of twelve hours of reading a day, just to be able to offer my professor an insightful "I think so?" when he asks me what "the implications of *Marbury v. Madison*" have on the power of the federal judicial system. Instead, I find myself taking frequent cat naps and partaking in activities that would make me the envy of any veteran Roman Orgyer

foresight to apply to, live in Feil. Seriously, I pity all of you.

However, there are reasons other than Feil Hall that brought me to BLS. So finally my "peers" have stopped asking me why I decided to come to Brooklyn; but I still get the question every time I meet with friends that I haven't seen in a while. I used to give the standard b.s. location/reputation/great program response, but that was before I felt comfortable admitting the truth to them and myself. So now I do just that, I tell them I'm here because Joan Wexler really does have an invigorating beam and that Fordham flat-out



(keep in mind that the latter activity is complemented with psychedelic circus jingles and that orgyer is not in fact a word recognized by Microsoft Word). Seemingly, 1L is about as intense as chocolate pudding. I guess you could say that time is all that I have, lots and lots and lots of free time to do ridiculously lazy and fun stuff.

A popular shot to the chops that people like to administer to me is to poke fun at the fact that I live in Feil Hall, or the "dorm" as they refer to it in feigned ignorance. Most of this sublime teasing comes from non-Feil residents at BLS and my adopted five year old cousin Mookie. In truth, these maggots should be jealous. Not only is Feil Hall a state of the art residence, decked out with plasma screen televisions in the elevators and vending machines that distribute pizza, but have you forgotten how ridiculously awesome it was to live in a residence? Kegs in the lobby, streaking through courtyards, watching Ultimate Fighting Championships at Gerald's Cafe, and co-ed pajama parties at apartment 15A every night at 11pm during The Daily Show. I don't really see how you can beat that. Honestly, shame on all of you who lacked the

rejected me.

All-in-all coming to BLS has proven to be a pretty ridiculously great experience. Moreover, in the eyes of family, friends, and potential lovers, attending Brooklyn Law has raised my coolness exponentially. Not only am I enrolled in a legitimate and highly-esteemed professional degree program, but I am also studying in the hipster Mecca of the eastern-seaboard and I think that makes me really awesome.

In conclusion, one of the best parts about going to BLS is its proximity to Floyd's Bar on Atlantic Ave. It is potentially the most magical bar that I have ever had the privilege to frequent. Moreover, the Bocce Ball court in the bar is a really amazing and innovative asset. I never had the chance to play this highly athletic and competitive game until I went to Floyd's and now I can't stop. Basically, I am the Michael Jordan of Bocce Ball and Floyd's is my United Center. I hereby challenge anyone in the masses to a match of Bocce Ball, loser buys first fifteen rounds of Schlitz. And yes...the pj parties do include bon bons, pillow fights, and scary stories. Life is good.

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## The Student Bar Association is looking for your help!

Yes, you, the one who mistakenly chose law school over art school.

The SBA is in need of a new logo.

A logo that we will use on banners and letterhead.

### TOP TEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD ENTER THE SBA LOGO CONTEST

10. For the BARBRI Certificate
9. Because you probably won't produce anything else during your time at law school.
8. For the sheer excitement of listening to everyone oooh and ahhh over your design.
7. For the extra \$\$ you will have in your pocket as you go out to celebrate finishing law school, because you were able to use your BARBRI Certificate to cover some of the cost of BARBRI.
6. You will feel better about yourself and you will become a superstar. Okay, maybe we are getting a bit carried away.
5. Because you're good enough, you're smart enough, and, doggonit, people like you!
4. Uhhhh, this is a hard topic to come up with a top 10 list, did I mention the BARBRI Certificate.
3. I will buy you a drink (so long as there is no school rule or law being broken by making and fulfilling this offer)
2. Because if you pass this on to 20 people in the next 20 minutes the person you admire will ask you out on a date, or if you pass it on to 10 people in the next 20 minutes, that person you admire will spit in your face. Or if you are married or already have a significant other, then this does not apply.
1. Because you need yet another excuse as to why you have not yet opened your book for your Con Law class.

Please submit designs to [brian.simeone@brooklaw.edu](mailto:brian.simeone@brooklaw.edu).

All submissions should be in by Wednesday, October 19th.

## Feil Hall and the Future of BLS

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In addition to the changes in the material appeal of Brooklyn Law School, professors and other faculty members are predicting important changes in the dynamics of both the classroom and the student body. The existence of a large residence hall will create a social aspect to law school that perhaps did not exist before, or at least existed, but in a very small way. Associate dean for development, Michael A. Gerber, reported to the New York Law Journal: "Feil Hall is going to create a richer community for us, with students not only attending class together but living together. It will enrich their lives, it will enrich our total campus life."

Just walk through the hallways of Feil Hall on Thursday nights, or any other night during the weekend, and you are bound to find at least one party. Jennifer Smith states that one professor has already commented on the change he has seen in the classroom.

"He said usually the first day of class is extremely quiet because students feel too intimidated to speak up in front of a room full of people they don't know." This year, however, was remarkably different as the professor entered the classroom to find students who had already become acquainted with each other through living at Feil Hall. "Students were joking around with each other before class," and were more willing to participate.

Another example of change Smith described was this year's annual SBA-sponsored Cyclones game during orientation week. In previous years, the

baseball game has been a huge hit, serving as the first major event during which incoming students can meet each other. This year, however, a significantly large number of students failed to participate due to the fact that they had already received the opportunity to meet their fellow classmates by living in Feil Hall.

If you are wondering who Brooklyn Law School has to thank for these momentous changes, just take a look at the wall on the left side of the elevators in the lobby of Feil Hall.

Here you will find a glass plaque which reads: "In Honor of Those Who Have Given Generously to Build Feil Hall and to Strengthen Brooklyn Law School." The names of all those who donated money towards the construction of the building are then listed under several titles. The "Founder's Circle," for example, consists of the names of such major contributors as the Estate of Ira H. Belfer, class of 1933; the Feil Family Foundation and Jeffrey J. Feil, responsible for a donation of \$4 million; Jeffrey D. Forchelli and his

wife, Sadie Forchelli, who donated \$1.5 million; Geraldo and Erica Levy Rivera, responsible for \$1 million; and Stuart and Anita Subotnick, who also contributed \$1 million. Mr. Feil is a 1973 graduate of Brooklyn Law School. Like Mr. Rivera, Mr. Forchelli is a 1969 graduate of Brooklyn Law, while Stuart Subotnick is part of the 1968 class, currently serving as chief operating officer of Metromedia Company and chairman of Brooklyn Law School's Board of Trustees.



Last minute electrical work at Jeffrey D. Forchelli Conference Center in Feil Hall  
Photo by Stephen Harris