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HASTINGS LAW NEWS

San Francisco, California

September 9, 1997

Volume 31, Number 1

Students Told "Check's in the Mail"

Empty Pockets on Campus as Financial Aid Checks Crawl To Students' Hands

Molly Peterson
SPECIAL TO THE LAW NEWS

An unusual number of Hastings' financial aid recipients have been unable to receive their fall disbursement in time to pay tuition and fees, and the Office of Financial Aid has not yet pinned down the source of the problem, claiming only that "a number of things" have contributed to the bureaucratic fiasco.

Third-year Glenn von Tersch said that his money is late because Hastings mailed in his loan application paperwork late. According to von Tersch, whose lender is Law Loans, his disbursement was not available to him on Aug. 18 when he returned to school. He then had to apply for a deferment of the fees in order to continue attending classes. When he checked back with financial aid

personnel, including Deb Tran, he was told that the financial aid staff had gone through all of the files to ensure there was no late or outstanding paperwork. Still, von Tersch said he was then shown his loan application in his file on Sept. 4.

Von Tersch said he thought that a reasonable estimate of when he will receive his fall disbursement is Sept. 15 "at the earliest," though he still has been given no definite date.

"I'm just fortunate because I had a job last summer that paid," von Tersch said. "I don't need this money to eat."

Third-year student and Law Loans borrower Jessica Stavnezer said that when her bank left a zero off her unsubsidized loan check financial aid personnel acted like it was a joke. "They didn't take me seriously," Stavnezer said. Stavnezer added that in addition to applying for a deferment, she has had to take out two short-term loans to compensate in the short-term.

"They still won't admit when they are wrong," Stavnezer said.

Third-year Hilda Stenseny also received her disbursement late, with no explanation. While Stenseny said she was

inconvenienced, she was not surprised. "I have no idea why it was late, but it didn't really create a hardship for me," she said. "It just seemed like business as usual." Unlike Stavnezer or von Tersch,

Bisesi says she is not yet sure if government agencies, private lenders or the school itself are to blame for late disbursements.

Stenseny has received her money.

Office of Financial Aid Director Linda Bisesi was "reluctant to comment" on the plight of students until she had a chance to analyze the situation in detail, but added that she "[tried] to counsel each student individually when they came in" with problems as they occurred. Bisesi said she did not know yet whether government agencies, private lenders or the school

itself was responsible for the unusually high number of problems, which she declined to quantify.

Bisesi said that she thought the important thing was that the fall disbursements for "nearly everyone" have arrived at this point.

Whether the school is responsible is an even bigger mystery to the students who have been affected by this crisis. Stenseny was quick to add that she didn't know whether the late financial aid payment was the school's fault; "it could have been entirely out of their hands," she said.

Stavnezer agreed that it was hard to pin down blame without all of the facts but said she still sees room for improvement. "They messed up twice with me," she said. "If they had taken me seriously this problem could have been solved much earlier. Because everyone's financial aid is a mess they didn't have time to consider individual cases as seriously as they should have."

Bisesi said she expected it would be a couple of weeks until the sources of the delays were more clear.

Journals Get New Digs

Ivo Labar
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Come October, Hastings' law journals are moving on up to a deluxe apartment in the sky.

"The new offices are great. I can't say enough good things about them," said 3L Jeff Moore, "we'll have the best view of any law review in the country."

All six scholarly publications, including administrative offices, will be consolidated on the 22nd and 23rd floors of McAllister Tower as soon as renovations are complete this month.

Currently, journal offices are strewn randomly along the fourth floor and basement of the 198 Building. For example, *Hastings Law Journal* has five small offices along the west side of the 4th floor. *WestNorthwest* is in the basement near the arcade, while the *Women's Law Journal* is in a cubicle on the north side of the basement. Not surprisingly, the members of these journals are particularly excited about the move. "I've heard great things about the new offices," said 3rd year Lauren Gibson, managing editor of *Women's Law Journal*, "the new offices will be a definite improvement over the cramped and depressing basement."

The impetus for giving the journals a new home arose when Hastings added the two newest journals, *WestNorthwest* and the *Women's Law Journal*, several

see LAW REVIEWS, p.2

A Guiding Light: Big Brothers and Sisters Available

Hastings Offers a Mentor Program for Students Seeking Career Direction

Peter Soares
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As academic interests give way to career concerns, students are confronted with a litany of questions regarding life outside school. What type of law do I want to do? Do I want to do law at all? How can I pursue my non-traditional career interests? Should I disclose my political affiliations? Questions arising from the nitty gritty of the work world are hard to answer. Through Hastings Alumni Mentor Program, students can get help in answering these hard questions.

The mentor program, managed by Career Services coordinator Sari Zimmerman, has been part of

the drive in the past few years to revitalize the Career Services Office. The program works by matching second- and third-year students with experienced attorneys in the student's areas of interest. Zimmerman describes the program as an "individualized clinic" in which students have the opportunity to add more practical dimension to their professional goals.

The program, which boasted 160 matches last year, has met with considerable success, according to career services. Zimmerman uses a comprehensive system of cross-references to satisfy student interests ranging from long-distance contacts to sexual

professional backgrounds. When third-year Elene Chung wanted to relocate to Las Vegas, Zimmerman put her in contact with Nevada Municipal Court Judge Larry Sage. In the months that followed, Chung observed Sage at work and spoke to him regarding her career options. When Sage recommended her to an assistant district attorney, Chung ended up with the job.

Defined on an individual level, any mentor/student relationship varies from one set of participants to another, according to Zimmerman. Typical activities have included mock interviews, attending local bar association meetings and shadowing a mentor

during part of his or her day. Interactions customarily consist of discussions over the phone, at the office or over lunch with an accessible professional willing to field students' concerns. From their perspective, many participating mentors view the program as a means of maintaining their ties to the school. Philip Matthews, an attorney with the San Francisco firm of Hancock, Roshert & Bunschoff, enjoys the opportunity to lend perspective on the student experience while discussing alternatives for implementing student career goals. Attorney Steve Baker said that it gives him the opportunity

see MENTOR, p.2

In This Issue...

NEWS
New Journal Offices 1
Tardy Financial Aid 1
Truth Symposium 1

FEATURES
Mentor Program 2
Chow's On 1
Zia's Loin Delights 2

VIEWPOINT
Dean's Column 3

Law Reviews With Views

LAW JOURNAL, from p. 1

years ago. "Basically we ran out of space," said Kaba, "members of West/Northwest and WLJ looked for more room and the Tower came up as the best solution."

Planning began last fall with journal members having a strong voice in the process, according to Kaba. "The different journal boards helped the architects and guided them along as to their different needs," he said.

Even though the plans were only drawn up last year, remodeling stayed on schedule, according to school officials. "It has gone far beyond my expectations," said Kaba. "When the journals looked at the space last fall it was in pretty bad shape; no running water, no electricity. Now we have modern offices with panoramic views," he said.

Funding for the move came from the O'Brien grant, named after Judge Ray O'Brien, Hastings Class of 1913. In honor of the

donor's largesse, the new offices will be called the O'Brien Scholarly Publications Center. Renovating the two floors in the Tower cost \$473,000, according to David Seward, Hastings' Chief Financial Officer.

All the journals will have similar offices. However, some may be larger than others. "Journals with larger memberships, and bigger editorial boards, received slightly more room," said Kaba. "The biggest improvement is a more efficient use of space, according to Kaba. "The current offices have clunky furniture, while the new offices have built-in, modern workstations and more open work environments," he said.

The O'Brien Center includes two conference rooms. The larger one has an attached kitchen. Other features include a copy room and new computer equipment. The offices will have their own computer network and laser printers.

Evidence Scholars Discuss Truth in the Law

Koren Wong-Ervin
SPECIAL TO THE LAW NEWS

Perhaps inspired by the X-Files slogan asserting that "The truth is out there," the *Hastings Law Journal* will sponsor a 4-day long, wide-scope symposium on truth in evidence law in two weeks.

Hastings will host a four day symposium with 39 speakers and commentators from 25 American and three European law schools. The event begins on September 25. Entitled "TRUTH AND ITS RIVALS: Evidence Reform and the Goals of Evidence Law," the symposium is sponsored by the *Hastings Law Journal*.

The conference will provide intellectual debate about the future of evidence law as well as practical information for the practitioner. Some of the issues that will be addressed include the future of evidence law, the exclusion of hearsay, and developments in the use of polygraph results and experts in

trials. "Evidence law is at a crossroads right now," said Professor Roger Park. "The purpose of this symposium is to discover what we are trying to accomplish with our current rules and how they have developed. Do we have the rules that we do because we are seeking justice and the truth? Or are our current rules motivated by other factors, such as our obsession with the adversarial system?"

Park also pointed to a number of other reasons for hosting an evidence seminar this fall, including several recent Supreme Court cases on evidence issues and other international developments. Also, Hastings has a large number of evidence faculty, six in all, which makes Hastings an apt location, according to Park.

In addition, part of the conference will be devoted to a discussion and critique of Yale Professor Mirjan Damaska's recent book *Evidence Law Adrift*,

which considers the future of evidence law in a changing procedural environment.

The symposium is free for students, faculty, and staff to attend. Pre-registration is required. *Hastings Law Journal* will be distributing registration materials through student's SIC folders. Conference materials and lunch are available at cost (\$15 for materials; \$2/lunch). Regular registration fee is \$175 for the public, \$100 for non-Hastings' students, \$100 for government or public service, and \$225 for MCLE. For more information, call (415) 565-4727 ext.3 or e-mail Erika Barnes at barnese@uchastings.edu.

The program begins Thursday, September 25 at 5 p.m. with a reception and ends Sunday a little after 5 p.m. Although pre-registration is required, attendees are free to come and go as they please, attending only those panels in which they are interested in viewing.

Restaurant Roundup: Cheap Eats 'Till Your Checks Come In Next Spring

Chow Down at Chow

Chow, the new eatery at Church and Market makes its "good time taste" an affordable treat. The secret's out and even at 5pm, the reviewers had to wait 15 to 20 minutes for a table. No problem, we stepped next door for a quick brew and were back just in time for our uncommonly cheerful hostess to whisk us to a back table. The restaurant sports a country American decor of deep green walls accented with rustic wood. Familiar faces from James Dean to Joni Mitchell grace the walls and a stack of aged tomes at

the end of the antique bar create an instant atmosphere of homey nostalgia. A throng of locals, young and old, large and small, tattooed, pierced and pristine black silver and chattered away at the 20 or so tables.

A flustered and apologetic waiter eventually appeared to take our order. We started by sharing a dozen fire-roast mussels with garlic-parsley butter (\$5.95). We were a bit disappointed that no little plates were offered but at these prices, who can complain. The conversation had mysteriously turned to red tide and related bacteria. Nevertheless, we managed to scarf down the mussels before plates could be missed.

The menu offers a good variety

of pasta priced between 6 and 8 dollars. The editor per se chose Ziti pasta alla Norma (\$5.75) with a simple tomato basil sauce accented with chunks of garlicky eggplant and crumbled ricotta salata. The writer chose a rocket, tomato and asparagus plate-sized pizza (\$6.75) served whole with her very own pizza-cutter, perfect for playing with one's food.

While our selections were accidentally vegetarian, the menu offers many meat and seafood entrees. The burger royale (get it?, at \$6.75), half a grilled rosemary-lemon chicken (\$7.50), pizzas with lamb sausage (\$7.25), and a pricier salmon special (\$11.95), to name a few.

House wine (\$2.95) is served in a 'homestyle' tumbler but 1

popped for peppery syrah (\$4.50) in stemware. There is the obligatory cosmopolitan selection of tap and bottled beers including big bottles of Chimay. I've always wondered about those monks, brewing beer, quiet contemplation, perhaps law school was a mistake. We're all too busy for that sort of doubt, but there is time for the occasional foray into SF's diverse neighborhoods for a bite. Chow's a good choice.

Chow, 215 Church Street (at Market). Open daily. No reservations.

—Amy Fairweather

Zia's Tenderloin Treat

Is the Paper Chase giving you an appetite? A delicious new cookery just one block from campus is now available to ease hunger pains of students, providing a pleasant alternative to the older neighborhood lunch spots.

Zia's Cafe, at 265 Golden Gate (between Hyde and Leavenworth), opened in August and offers a variety of lighter mediterranean fare such as soups, salads, pastas and sandwiches. Zia's emphasizes freshness and only uses quality

ingredients such as extra virgin olive oil, according to the proprietor.

All sandwiches are served on baguette rolls and come complete with a choice of pasta or potato salad. The roasted eggplant and mozzarella sandwich was exceptionally tasty and very reasonable at only \$4.25. The roast chicken sandwich was very tender and came garnished with crisp chopped vegetables. Like the sandwiches, Zia's pasta salads were also very light and fresh, a nice change from the greasy spots that litter the Tenderloin. Zia's also has a daily special, on our visit it was a very satisfying vegetable lasagna.

Zia also has a selection of fresh baked desserts such as muffins, cookies and tarts. True to its name, the cafe also has a variety of specialty coffees. The cappuccino, at \$1.75, was very smooth and accompanies the sandwich plate very nicely.

The service-oriented proprietor, formerly a chef at Union Square's Mocca restaurant, is exceptionally pleasant and treats customers as though they are long lost friends. Zia's is also offering a 15% discount to students with a Hastings I.D.

Zia's Cafe is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 4:00 and is available for catering parties.

—Ivo Lobar

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Dean Explains our Home Improvement

Mary Kay Kane
DEAN

Welcome to the "New" Hastings Campus.

Although I was able to welcome the entering class during Orientation, this is my first opportunity to extend a formal welcome to all our returning upperclass students. This is a great time of year, seeing returning students and getting caught up on what has happened to them over the summer, as well as meeting new students and enjoying the enthusiasm with which they are beginning their legal careers. The faculty and I are all very glad to have you back on campus.

I use the term "campus" deliberately. As an urban law school, we do not have the luxury of rolling green lawns and bell towers to provide the traditional campus feeling. Thus, over the last several years we have devoted significant time, money, and energy to enhancing our facilities to make them more user-friendly and to creating a campus environment suitable for our metropolitan setting, and plans exist for future improvements as well. So, I thought I would take this opportunity to sketch out for you not only what has occurred recently, but what you can look forward to in the short- and long-term.

Beginning last year, we added the patio outside the student dining commons and refurbished our Suro Room in the 198 McAllister building. This summer we tackled two major projects. The first was the complete renovation of the Lobby in the 200 McAllister building. For those students who were working around the campus during the summer, you know it was a "long, hot summer". Bets were being taken on whether everything would be completed on time so that we could open the doors to welcome our entering class and finally close that temporary driveway entrance we used during construction. Well, not only did we make the deadline (admittedly only a few short hours before students were to arrive for orientation), but, I hope you will agree, the new lobby is a dramatic and exciting improvement!

The second major construction project was in the Tower and involves renovating the entire 22nd and 23rd floors of that building to provide new state-of-the-art facilities for our six student scholarly publications. This project is on time and we are planning a "ribbon-cutting" at the end of this month. In addition to

these larger scale projects, we received a donation to allow us to refurbish one of our seminar rooms (Room 201), which will be named the Marvin Sussman Seminar Room. Some of the furniture was delayed in the UPS strike, but it is arriving and will be installed the week of September 8th, so stop by and see our "new look." (We are hoping to be able over the next several years to redo several of our rooms as we secure the necessary funds from our very loyal alumni and friends.)

Before even the paint is dry and the dust settled on those projects, we are starting on yet another great project. Over the summer the College received a very generous donation from an alumnus that will allow us to refurbish the Skyroom at the top of the McAllister Tower building as a student/faculty/alumni social center.

We will need to vacate the 198 building for about seven to eight months....

The space is spectacular, offering a 360 degree view of the City, and it will provide an important and exciting place for casual gatherings. It will be open to all students, not just those living in the Tower, and I predict will become one of the most popular meeting places around campus. We already have preliminary plans and will begin work this year with the goal of having everything completed for use by the fall term 1998.

Finally, and undoubtedly the biggest project of all, Hastings received State bond funding that will allow us to completely upgrade our primary classroom building, 198 McAllister. The building, which was first opened in 1958, with one major addition in 1970, is in need of serious upgrading. While much of the work involves things such as seismic upgrades and changes to bring the facility in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), others will have a marked effect on the quality of life in the classrooms. Thus, an entire new ventilation and air-conditioning system will be installed, alleviating one and for all the poor ventilation problems that we suffer every year (like now) when it is hot. Second, to make sure we can adapt and take advantage of the

technological changes that are happening, all the classrooms will be wired for technology, with all the desks allowing students to hook up their personal computers. Third, Classroom B (our monster classroom, which currently seats 198 people) will be divided into a large modern-style classroom for about 100 people and two seminar rooms. All in all, these changes will significantly enhance our classroom space and ensure that our teaching facility is the best it can be, not only now, but well into the 21st century.

As you might expect, the kinds of dramatic improvements I have just described require significant construction, and, in fact, we will need to vacate the 198 building for about 7-8 months to allow the work to be done. Thus, we plan to close the classroom building immediately after commencement in May 1998, to begin work with a goal of returning in January or February 1999. In the interim, we will be installing modular classrooms on our vacant property on Golden Gate Avenue, right next to the 200 McAllister building. All the necessary classrooms can be set up there, and this should allow for easy access for students and faculty.

Plans are being made this year to ensure that we have arranged for all the required temporary space for the other functions that currently are lodged in the 198 building, as well as to consider how to reconfigure some of the existing space on the fourth floor and in the basement of that building in light of the move of the scholarly publications to the Tower. David Seward, who is in charge of the planning for this project, has been in contact with ASUCH to seek some student representation on the working groups that he is forming to advise on those issues, and over the course of this year more detailed plans will be developed. We will keep you apprised of what is in the offing as those plans become known.

Although I know that a major project like the one we are undertaking will cause some inconvenience to all of us, it is important to remember that those effects will be only temporary and that the end result is very worthwhile. In the meantime, I hope that you will enjoy the improvements we already have made and those we will make this year. Although the grass may seem (and even be) greener elsewhere, we are all excited about these improvements, which should truly enhance our "real world campus" here at Hastings.

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Hastings Law News

"because somebody has to"

Get Yourself a Mentor

MENTOR, from p. 1

"to keep in touch with students that he might not otherwise have" while discussing developments in his field of international contracts law.

Interested students can initiate the process by signing up for an interview with Zimmerman. Students then fill out a form specifying their interests, which is retained on file at the Career Services Office. Students also submit a copy of their resume which

is a copy of their resume which Zimmerman then forwards to the prospective mentor as a means of acquainting the mentor with his mentee.

While the informal structure of the program gives students the option to tailor their participation to respond to individual needs, the onus is on the student to provide some follow through, according to Zimmerman.

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SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

SAN MATEO

- Saturday, September 20, 1997 - Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, September 21, 1997 - Noon-6:00 pm
- All sessions will be given live at the Villa Hotel, 4000 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, Camino Room.

SAN DIEGO

- Saturday, September 27, 1997 - Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, September 28, 1997 - Noon-6:00 pm
- All sessions will be given live at the California Western School of Law, 950 Cedar Street, San Diego, in the Auditorium.

ORANGE COUNTY

- Saturday, October 4, 1997 - 9:00 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:00 pm
- Sunday, October 5, 1997 - 9:00 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:00 pm
- All sessions will be given live at Pacific Christian College, 2500 E. Nutwood at Commonwealth, Fullerton (across from California State University, Fullerton), Second Floor, Room 205.

LOS ANGELES

- Saturday, October 18, 1997 - 10:00 am-4:00 pm
- Sunday, October 19, 1997 - 10:00 am-4:00 pm
- All sessions will be given live at the Ramada Hotel, 6333 Bristol Parkway, Culver City in the Projection Room.

VENTURA

- Saturday, October 18, 1997 - Noon - 6:00 pm
- Sunday, October 19, 1997 - Noon - 6:00 pm
- All sessions will be given at the Ventura College of Law, 4475 Market St., Ventura, Classroom #4

BAKERSFIELD

- Saturday, October 18, 1997 - 11:00 am-5:00 pm
- Sunday, October 19, 1997 - 11:00 am-5:00 pm
- All sessions will be given at the California Pacific School of Law, 1600 Truston Ave., Bakersfield. Room number will be posted on the day of the seminar. VIDEO PRESENTATION.

ORANGE COUNTY

- Saturday, October 18, 1997 - Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, October 19, 1997 - Noon-6:00 pm
- All sessions will be given live at Pacific Christian College, 2500 E. Nutwood Ave. (at Tiller) Fullerton (across from Cal. State University, Fullerton), Room 215A. Course Lecturer for this Seminar Only: Professor Maria Feiger, Attorney at Law, Legal Education Consultant.

SACRAMENTO

- Saturday, October 18, 1997 - Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, October 19, 1997 - Noon-6:00 pm
- All sessions will be given at American Books, 725 J St., Sacramento. VIDEO PRESENTATION.

RIVERSIDE

- Saturday, November 15, 1997 - Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, November 16, 1997 - Noon-6:00 pm
- All sessions will be held at California Southern School of Law, 3175 Elizabeth St., Riverside. Room number will be posted on the day of the seminar. VIDEO PRESENTATION.

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For the past fifteen years, Professor Fleming has devoted his legal career towards the development of legal preparatory seminars designed solely to aid Law Students and Bar Candidates in exam writing techniques and substantive law.

Professor Fleming's experience includes the Lecturing of Pre-Law School Prep Seminars and First, Second and Third Year Law School Final Reviews. He is the Organizer and Lecturer of the Baby Bar Review Seminar and the Founder and Lecturer of the Legal Examination Writing Workshop. Both are seminars involving intensive exam writing techniques designed to train the law student to write the superior answer. He is the Founder and Lecturer of Long-Short Term Bar Reviews. In addition, Professor Fleming is the Publisher of the Performance Exam Solutions and Multistate Examination Workbook, the creator of The Exam Solution Tape Series, which aids law students in exam preparation, the Author of the First Year Essay Examination Writing Workbook, the Second Year Essay Examination Writing Workbook, and the Third Year Essay Examination Writing Workbook. These are available in legal bookstores throughout the United States.

Professor Fleming has determined that the major problem for most law students is weak analytical skills. Most students can learn the law, but application of the law is a stumbling block and/or exam confidence. Professor Fleming has structured his programs to include both substantive law and legal analysis training. This provides the combination necessary for the development of a more well-prepared and skilled law student and bar candidate. These courses have made it possible for thousands of law students to improve their grades and ultimately pass the bar exam.

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