

3-24-1998

Hastings Law News Vol.31 No.6

UC Hastings College of the Law

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Recommended Citation

UC Hastings College of the Law, "Hastings Law News Vol.31 No.6" (1998). *Hastings Law News*. Book 238.
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HASTINGS LAW NEWS

San Francisco, California

March 24, 1998

Volume 31, Number 6

Viewpoint

A Perspective On Establishing a Life Outside The Law

Glenn E. Von Tersch
AD MANAGER EMERITUS

"What happened to the *Hastings Law News*? I used to be a good paper, now it's hardly four pages and it's full of ads." Heard on campus early this semester.

Here are a few thoughts as I read off to be an alum.

What did happen to the *Law News*? The people who were involved made choices about what they would do in the future. For the most part, these people chose not to return to the *Law News*. I made that choice. Unfortunately, the institution that is the *Law News* had too few members to maintain the performance of the last few years.

We all make choices in our lives. Many of us, upon making those choices, never seriously consider changing our minds. Once the decision is made, the choice is cast in concrete, never to be changed again. Avoid falling into this trap.

Many of us will go off to our jobs, thinking this is where we want to be and this is where we will continue to be. Statistics can be used to show that most of us will eventually leave that job. We will move from one corporate firm to another, or from one non-profit group to another. Some of us will move from private practice to public service, others will go the opposite way. My point here is that we need to be afraid to take advantage of the opportunities out there, regardless of the cost.

Too often, I have seen friends and colleagues trapped in the jobs they do. They convince themselves that they are too specialized and can do nothing else; that the loss of prestige, pay, even seniority would be too much to bear, essentially that pursuing their dreams is not worth the trouble. While this may be true for some reasons, such as family obligations, rarely do the obstacles truly block our paths.

If nothing else, look around you at all of your classmates who started other careers and then came to law school. Those people often left promising careers because they

Classroom Move to Trailers Imminent All Offices, Clubs Must Be Out By June 1; Beach Will Close



Bye, Bye Beach! As of June 1, 1998, students will no longer be able to comfortably ensconce themselves in their oasis of Tenderloin tranquility. With renovations in the 198 Building underway, students will spend next year in the 200 Building and the school's temporary home in the lot at the corner of Larkin and Golden Gate.



Ivo Labar
PUBLISHER

Final preparations are beginning for the renovation of the 198 Building. Portable modular classrooms will be installed in the parking lot on Larkin and Golden Gate in early May. The 198 Building will close June 1.

School officials are hopeful that the renovations will be completed by March of 1999. This would allow students to begin the spring semester's classes back in the remodeled building midway through the semester.

The state is providing funding for the work involving a major overhaul of the entire physical plant, including seismic improvements, compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, air conditioning and fire sprinklers. Noticeable improvements will include better lighting, more electrical outlets for laptops and electrical wiring for data cabling to each desktop.

School administrators currently are pursuing private donations to completely remodel the 3rd floor reading room in the 198 Building.

After renovations, Legal Writing and Research, Moot Court and LEOP will be relocated

to the fourth floor of the 198 Building. In the interim, the San Francisco City and County Courthouse on McAllister will serve as classrooms for these departments.

General Counsel Angele Katchadour's office, personnel services, fiscal services, and everything else we haven't listed will be moved to leased space at the Service Workers Union Building at 240 Golden Gate between Hyde and Leavenworth. The three-story structure will house administrative services and student associations. Tours will be held in the coming weeks to acquaint students and staff with the space.

Current plans move student lockers to the ground floor of the 200 Building. A few lockers will be installed in the largely wasted hallway next to the bookstore; most will be located in the Archive Room, a storage area on the north side of the ground floor that is normally not accessible to students.

School officials are currently scouting alternative locations for Fall OCI as well. One site under consideration is the nearby Abigail Hotel.

In other news, the Sky Lounge on the 24th floor of the Tower is slated to open in October 1998.

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VIEWPOINT

Get Some Perspective On Your Life: Do or Do Not, There Is No Try

GLENN, from p. 1

realized their was something else out there worth pursuing. Among my friends in my class, I can point to former teachers, musicians, mechanics, engineers, and journalists to name a few. All of these people spent time trying something out and then moved on to law school. Keep these people in mind as you move along your own career path.

I hear about friends, both attorneys and other professionals, who find themselves stuck in their positions. One person wanted to be a writer but went to law school for practical reasons (concerned about money), and now cannot imagine leaving law even though he hates it. Another wanted to practice in intellectual property, finally found a job in labor law, and now is so specialized that he cannot face taking the pay cut (from about \$150k to \$70k) that might allow him to pursue a job he could enjoy.

Should you find yourself in a situation where you loathe your job but you cannot afford to leave, I suggest that you reevaluate whether you can leave. Maybe a change of scenery will help, and you can go on doing what you do. Chances are what you will really need is a change of direction in your career. Urge you to keep in

mind your law school classmates who made that change once already. Losing income and living more economically may seem tough, but if it comes down to living happily or living in style, go with living happily. You can get through a few years of paying your dues again, and then you will be enjoying what you do for a living.

From what I have said, you might gather that I believe your primary occupation should dominate your life. Nothing could be further from the truth. As a student and as an engineer I made an effort to enjoy myself through activities such as volleyball, hiking, reading, even the *Law News*. Finding something to do on the side helped me maintain balance, allowed me to meet more friends, and forced me to keep everything in perspective. I hope a few of you who are currently 1Ls or 2Ls will consider choosing to devote some time next year to helping run the *Law News*. I certainly enjoyed my tenure on the staff. Also, keeping a school newspaper alive forces the administration to stay on its toes. Having seen my friends this year, I can tell you that being a 3L can be amazingly boring if you have no obligations. As for being a 2L, and on the *Law News*, you learn to juggle activities and get everything done, and the newspaper need not be that much additional work.

HASTINGS LAW NEWS

From Dialogue Comes Truth

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News, feature, and opinion articles are accepted from the community at large as well as students, but publication cannot be guaranteed. Prospective opinion writers should contact the editor-in-chief early in order to reserve space in the next issue.

The *Law News* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include the writer's phone number. If possible, materials should be submitted on disk. Long letters may be edited for length. Requests that names be withheld will be considered. Letters that have appeared on the Community Comment Board or are submitted anonymously will not be printed.

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VIEWPOINT

Rants of a Second-Year From the Three-Dot Lounge

Oren "Amjurr" Katzoff
CONTRIBUTOR

Welcome to the 3 dot lounge where we're all very happy that everyone has finally learned how to type 'exit' after finishing e-mail. We wouldn't want some cold-hearted student to enter your account and send hate-mail to some organization. Oh, the horror. On to the rants... Hey, am I doing these 3 dots right? I'd hate for this article to fail the 10 error rule... Rumot has it that last semester's Sports Law class did *too well* on their final. Of course, "too well" doesn't fit within the Hastings curve and Hastings was having none of that. So Prof. Nichols' finals were reviewed by the school and new grades were assigned: 4 A's, 45 B's, and 10 C's — for a class that supposedly did great? Unbelievable. Apparently, Prof. Nichols ignored one of the school bylaws: "Screw over as many students as possible." I haven't seen judgment that had since since I lost to Arsenio Hall on Star Search... A little note to those who had LWR: if you got a grade lower than a B, you're also a victim of the

Hastings curve. Why? Because for non-GPA classes, the median grade for the class has to be a B. That means that when you list all the grades in the class, the exact middle grade has to be a B. So technically, in a class of 15, a teacher could give 7 A's and 8 B's and no grades lower [and many have been known to tell their class that no grades lower than a B will be given for that reason]. But if your teacher gave students C's, it doesn't mean you're a poor writer, it just means that your teacher either wasn't smart enough to know what "median" means or he just didn't like you. On the topic of grades and classes, remember, Hastings is sort of like the Olympics. It doesn't matter how well you do, the important thing is that you're here. Be proud of your achievements, nobody really cares if you take home gold or silver. Yes, try telling that to an employer in a job interview (and try telling that to Michelle Kwan). Fact is, if you're top 10% of the class you could have the personality of Al Gore and

your hobbies could include "Attending the student-faculty trivia bowl" and you'll still get a job. Anyone else enjoy going down to the basement to get your grades as much as I do? It's not that I don't like it, it's that I fear it. They stopped posting the grades on the "Wailing Wall" because it wasn't "civil-like enough." Great — so now they line up an executorial style and hand us little papers that look like fortunes. Personally I like "Soon you will be sitting on top of the world" a little better than the ones I get. . . Hey, as long as all the students get ranked, why don't we rank all the professors too? We can base the rankings on the final evaluations of students and then send them down to the dungeon to get their results.

Good to see that our rankings are no longer dropping like Bill Clinton's pants at an intern social. At this rate, we might crack the top 20 at our own expense. At this time, we're doing paying off our loans... Those of you considering journal, let me tell you something about that that you won't find in any fancy informational brochure or

website. One student put it best: "You spend a great deal of time proof reading and cite checking works of professors; you don't know that write about things you don't give a rat's ass about..." Then there's the topic of the note, 25 pages, 150 footnotes, and you know what you get for it? Johnnie, tell us what we've won. You get one whole unit! It doesn't fulfill your writing requirement, it takes weeks to write, and chances are it won't get published. But boy does it look good on the coffee table, right next to your new copy of *Big and Bury*. And don't forget, as a 3rd year, you don't even get a unit for being on journal. Nothing like spending 10-15 hours of your busy law school week doing something school related for the pure satisfaction of having it on your resume... According to one student, the Appellate Advocacy program has had trouble with teachers' attendance this semester. Apparently, one teacher attended class about as often as Dennis Rodman goes to basketball practice. App. Adv. teachers get paid an enormous amount per semester with

money that comes out of our tuition. The App. Adv.'s department's policy is that teachers have to have 2 bad semesters before any action is taken. Excuse me? When I put into law school, I was told by administration that the reason your final grade in class is based on your final exam alone is because in the field of law, you only get one chance. I guess that doesn't apply to faculty... One teacher actually didn't even show up to her students' final oral arguments. Instead, she graded the performance off of the video taped version, on the school's "hi-tech" recording equipment. The video camera had been so reliable that when they recorded my Audio Court oral last year, the studio didn't work. I can just see this teacher now: "Hey App! Teach, wanna go see Phantom of the Opera? I just got an extra ticket!" "No, I'll just rent it at Blockbuster." "I hear it's just as good on tape."

Finally, the world of baseball lost an admiral and treasure trove broadcaster last week when Harry Carey passed away. HOLY COW! We'll miss you, Harry... See you in the trailers next year!

Pledging to Dust

Ian Wallace
STREET TO THE LAW NEWS

Recently I had to fill out some employment papers in order to receive a stipend for being a teacher's assistant. Name, title, social security number, date of birth, salary, and the Hastings Oath of Allegiance. Excuse me, the what? Despite the eagerness of my fellows to sign the oath and dash off for free beer, I chose to read it.

STATE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE: I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.

Chill. If you think that's scary, at the bottom of the page was this clause:

PENALTIES: "Every person who, while taking or subscribing to the

of a sudden, I felt very "reserved."

I was told that every Hastings employee had signed the oath. I tried to envision my professors in combat. I tried to imagine them fending off large Canadian Mounties engaged by acid rain and tariffs in Moonhead. I really couldn't see any of them considering a Sherman tank on Sunset Beach to combat a Mexican army hell-bent on getting California back. I don't know why a was so ignorant/naive. Perhaps it became serious to them when we discussed these don't mess well with camouflage.

So, being a legal, fast-shut, law student, I modified the oath. I wrote "I do have some reservations about defending the Constitution against foreign enemies in the event of armed conflict." I handed it in. The Moral Coor. Coordinator asked me if I was just being a smart-ass if I have always admired her acute abilities to perceive the not-so-subtle. "Yes," I said, "in that bad!" She asserted that it was fine, adding only that I would not get paid.

Wow. A dilemma. 300 bucks or sanctuary from the looming possibility of an in-your-face food-and-pats-fubling-bomb-dropping-patriotic-fighting in order to save an old piece of paper. On the other hand, 300 bucks means a new TV!!! In light of

these considerations, I cast away my reservations, signed the oath, picked up my mental machete and set off to defend the Constitution in the name of subsidized education.

Immediately, I realized my problem. Had I promised to defend the California Constitution, and wasn't quite sure where it was. Instantly proferted that I was probably in Sacramento. I chose to rely on my hunches, as no fact-finding expedition could justify a trip to Sacramento. Next, I sent off my application to The Firearms And Martial Arts Correspondence Workshop. However, postponing a tattoo, I realized that I will never have to fight anyone. Here's why:

I have sworn to defend the Constitution against all enemies, and frankly, I'm a pretty nice guy. It takes a lot to get me to even dislike anybody, let alone classify them as an enemy. I haven't thought of anyone as an enemy since kindergarten. Try to think of your enemy. There's pretty tough to label. Pretend that you have one. Try looking in the mirror, growl, and mutter "Soohhhhhhh, my enemy!"

Facts a little factoid, doesn't it. If it feels good, then fight on my brethren. However, I'm sharing the strict textual approach with my peace-loving soul sisters. No

enemies means defending nothing from none. Asslamakum, shalom, and namo to hi tengye cho. (respective translations: Peace my brothers, peace; and keep saying this until you get that neat car.)

Just for the record, I think its repulsive when people try to inject some form of social commentary into reading material purely designed to entertain. Therefore, I will not waste time suggesting that the school discontinue its adherence to this archaic, outmoded, nationalistic, pseudo-patriotic, misguided and ineffective rite from days yooooo gone by. Instead, I believe that the school should race to embrace the spirit of the oath. When students sign it, they should stand in patient leather shoes and click their heels as a brass band blares some rockin' Given Scott Key tunes. We should be famous real Zippos and a coupon good for a buzz cut. A pamphlet should describe exactly who all enemies are, and what they look like. Oh, and we should be told where that Constitution is. That way, when I see an enemy, I won't waste time piling through my roommate's underwear drawer to see whether I got lucky. For if he caught me, the explanation might sound a little strange.

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