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Hastings Law News 2000 Vol.2 Iss.1

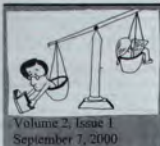
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Volume 2, Issue 1
September 7, 2000

HASTINGS LAW NEWS

IF THERE IS TO BE A HASTINGS COMMUNITY, THE STUDENTS MUST HAVE A VOICE

Beach Party



photo by John Hendrickson

Students gathered August 25 for the "Welcome Back Barbecue" sponsored by ASUCH and the Hastings Bookstore. Hot dogs, veggie burgers, hamburgers, chips, salads and beer were served to celebrate the beginning of the academic year.

Prof. Schiller wins award as top teacher

by Danielle Lee (2L), Contributing Editor,
John Hendrickson (3L), Editor-in-Chief

Professor Reuel Schiller is this year's recipient for the William A. Rutter Teaching Award for Excellence. This essentially means he was teacher of the year for UC Hastings. Schiller is the first Hastings professor to win the Rutter award.

The award was created from a fund donated by William A. Rutter (see inset story) in 1978, and has recognized teachers from UCLA Law School, UC Davis (King Hall), and USC Law School since 1978. UC Berkeley (Boalt) was added in 1994. The UC Hastings Board of Directors authorized acceptance from the fund December of 1999, and this is the first year one of our professors has been recognized in this way.

Prior to this year, there wasn't a "teacher of the year" per se at Hastings, but the outgoing class selects an "Outstanding Professor." Last year's recipient was Professor Schiller. The year before that was Professor Schiller. And the year before that was Professor Schiller. Given that pedigree, this award was obviously well earned.

It is also noteworthy that Professor Schiller does not teach any first-year courses, which is where professors typically garner a "following" of students. Nor does he teach Bar courses, which are also well attended due to pragmatic decisions students. Professor Schiller currently instructs Labor Law, Administrative Law, and American Legal History. Despite all that, his classes are large and enrollment is high.

Selection for this award is done in a particular manner. When asked during an interview about how or see Schiller.....page 4

Recent graduate dies in car accident

A friend remembers Jason Lini as someone who made a difference

by Holly Pranger (3L), Contributing Ed.

Jason Lini, Hastings Class of 2000, was tragically killed in an automobile accident in Billings, Montana on August 2.

Lini, 29, was on vacation when his car collided with a truck late at night. Lini, an aspiring prosecutor, was planning to study for and take the California State Bar when he returned from Montana.

Jason was a bright, lovable person, born and raised in San Diego. As a resident and employee of the McAllister

Tower, you may have chatted with him in the elevator or picked up a package from him at the office. He was always in a good mood, friendly to all and quick to accommodate your needs.

He will be greatly missed by his parents, two sisters, one brother, his many friends from Hastings and the community. He made an amazing contribution to the lives of many lesser-privileged youth in the San Francisco area during his years here at Hastings. Jason single-handedly started El Comp, a student mentoring program for kids in the Tenderloin. His tireless efforts to recruit law students from Hastings to act as mentors for children who often do not have many positive role models will be remembered and, hopefully, carried on in his memory. Jason also touched many students while he taught a Street Law class to high school students during two semesters.

After Jason's first year at Hastings, he worked during the summer at the

-Holly Pranger

United States Attorney's Office in Fresno, California. He loved his work and actually represented the Government in administrative hearings before the court. Although he had not yet been certified to make representations in court, a federal judge granted him limited ability to do so. Continuing on with his

see Lini.....page 2



Jason Lini

United States Attorney's Office in Fresno, California. He loved his work and actually represented the Government in administrative hearings before the court. Although he had not yet been certified to make representations in court, a federal judge granted him limited ability to do so. Continuing on with his see Lini.....page 2

Lini.....from page 1

dream of working as a prosecutor, he worked his second summer at the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

Jason's family held a memorial service for him in San Diego on August 26, 2000. In lieu of flowers, his family asked that donations be made in Jason's memory to Corbar House, Inc., 4318 Meade Ave., San Diego, CA, 92116.

Jason's friend and co-worker at the Tower, Cheryl Svendsen, is planning a memorial service for him here at Hastings. The date is yet to be determined (expected late September), but anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Jason, and those who had the misfortune not to, are welcome to attend. Please look for the date and time to be announced in the Hastings Weekly and around campus.

Jason Lini, Hastings Class of 2000, will truly be missed by all who knew him.

Jason, I miss you. Be with the angels, because you are one.

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Law News Expanding!

Editors

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the success of this issue! Due to the OVERWHELMING response from advertisers and contributors, the *Law News* will increase in size by at least 50 percent for the next issue.

We are still taking all contributions! Our deadline for the next issue is SEPTEMBER 26.

The goal of the *Hastings Law News* is to give all students a voice in the Hastings community. We hope to accomplish that goal through this expansion.

If you would like to assist in the preparation of the newspaper, please contact Jason or John, lawnews@uchastings.edu. We are currently in need of writers, editors, photographers, illustrators and anyone else willing to help.

See you next month!

Child Advocacy Opportunity with City Courts

by Danielle Lee (2L), Contributing Ed.

The SF Court appointed Special Advocate Program (SFCASA) is currently interviewing potential community volunteers for its next training class. It is the only agency in the city dedicated exclusively to providing advocacy to children in the S.F. Juvenile Dependency Court system (foster care). The advocates speak in court for the best interest of the children by

CASA volunteers take responsibility for one child (and possibly siblings) with

whom they visit on a regular basis. They establish a relationship with that child and review records, including family history, school records, etc., in order to understand his or her needs. The volunteer researches potential resources and possible family arrangements, such as family preservation or alternative family planning, then represents the child through various court proceedings,

You do not need to be a lawyer to participate. Volunteers must be 21 years or older, have the ability to work with children, respect people from various eco-

nomics, cultural, education backgrounds and be able to gather and accurately record factual information and maintain objectivity. The time commitment is 18 months and the volunteer must attend all court hearings, consult regularly with staff concerning your assigned case, and submit monthly logs and case summaries, and meet all court submission deadlines.

The SFCASA will begin volunteer training October 3, 2000. Please contact Gwendolyn Morgan, Training and Diversity Recruitment Coordinator at 415 398-8001 ext 104 if interested.

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MUCH, MUCH MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED AS THE YEAR CONTINUES....

BECOME A MEMBER NOW! IF YOU MISSED THE FOUNDER'S MEETING, DON'T WORRY, THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME FOR YOU TO JOIN. THE COST FOR A YEARLONG MEMBERSHIP IS \$15.00. EACH EVENT IS OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS FOR A FEE. TO JOIN AND HAVE ITVG ON YOUR RESUME, CUT OUT AND DROP THE FORM BELOW, ALONG WITH A CHECK FOR \$15.00 (TO ITVG) IN ITVG'S SIC FOLDER.

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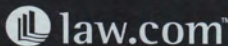
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Schiller.....from page 1

why he thought he was selected, his answer was, "I have no idea... I have seen many of [my colleagues] teach and I think they're fantastic." To satisfy everyone's curiosity, a committee that fulfills the criteria set forth by the fund does the selection. The members are: The Academic Dean, a student, an alumnus and a faculty member. The College Dean is also an ex-officio member. Criteria used by the committee is rather ambiguous, but indicators such as the PACE evaluations (filled out by students at the end of the semester), academic endeavors, peer perceptions, and reputation (hearsay) are among those factors considered.

The William A. Rutter Teaching Award for Excellence is designed to honor those extraordinary law teachers whose classes are exciting and instructive, and who truly help their students understand what they are learning. Mr. Rutter believes that, "their outstanding classroom performance usually reflects outstanding preparation and commitment."

"I was incredibly pleased to be selected for this award. Professors get very little feedback on their teaching, consequently it's particularly rewarding to have some indication that students like what we are doing," said Professor Schiller. "I enjoy teaching tremendously so it's nice to know that someone thinks that I'm doing it well."

So what does Professor Schiller do that is so different and insightful that he has been acknowledged by both his peers and students? In Administrative Law and Labor Law, he uses what he characterizes as a "mellow Socratic method," where student know in advance when they are on call. In American Legal History, he lectures for two days and then moderates a discussion panel of appointed experts for the third. This might not be a method of instruction that captures the imagination, so attitude and personality must comprise the rest of the equation. Perhaps there is a certain je ne sais quoi that keeps attracting students to his classroom like moths



"I enjoy teaching tremendously so it's nice to know that someone thinks that I'm doing it well."

-Prof. Reuel Schiller

to bug-zappers. Well, ok, hopefully there is a distinctly different outcome.

The rationale behind this award is that these outstanding teachers have the best reputations, and therefore the largest classes. This translates into extra work, extra students to counsel and extra examinations to grade, but no extra pay. Mr. Rutter stated, "[they] in fact may be penalized because they have less time for research and writing scholarly papers which are the usual basis for salary increases at major universities."

When asked about how he's going to spend the money, Professor Schiller replied, "my wife and I just bought a house this summer, so the money will be going directly to the bank that holds our mortgage." He thought that was a dull answer, probably because he's not going to Tahiti over the winter break, but the Hastings Law News commends Professor Schiller's prudence as well as his teaching ability! We hope that he finds it in his heart to forgive his students and peers for costing him extra income tax liability.

William A. Rutter: The man behind the award

by John Hendrickson (3L), Editor-in-Chief

Mr. Rutter received his B.A. degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara, his M.A. degree from University of California at Los Angeles and his law degree from University of Southern California, where he was associate editor of the Law Review, and a member of the Order of the Coif.

Following his admission to the bar in 1955, Mr. Rutter maintained a general civil law practice, specializing in business litigation and appellate work. Since withdrawing from the practice of law, and now for over 30 years, Mr. Rutter has devoted his life to legal education and the publishing of learned legal volumes.

In 1979, he founded The Rutter Group, Ltd., which has grown under his leadership to become one of the leading legal publishing companies in the country. His contributions to the publication of legal works are matched only by his contributions as a legal author. He wrote and published all of the original Gilbert Law Summaries, the most popular study aid for law students in the United States, and founded the BARBRI Bar Review, which has become the largest bar review course in California. In addition, after leaving the practice of law, Mr. Rutter returned to his alma mater, where, for a number of years, he taught Civil Procedure, Conflicts of Law, and Restitution Law.

In 1993, William A. Rutter was awarded the California Bar Association's highest honor, the *Bernard E. Winkin Medal*, in recognition of his long and varied legal career and contributions to the legal profession.

Special thanks to the proud staff of The Rutter Group, Ltd. for their assistance in preparing this article.

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KOOKY LAW

A COLUMN BY PATRICIA LAM (11)

And you thought cases on *Ally McBeal* were random. Ponder on these real life rulings (I kid you not), guaranteed to make us all "take a moment."

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT ENTERING THE
MISS NUDE WORLD
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION?

Georgia - Vanessa Steele Inman never drank, smoked or took drugs. And the 33-year-old former stripper also refused to allow one of the coordinators of the 1997 Miss Nude World International pageant to lick whipped cream off her naked breasts during a photo shoot. She sued the club, the Pink Pony, its Las Vegas owner and pageant organizers, claiming they violated Georgia's beauty pageant statute and state racketeering laws. A Fulton County jury awarded Steele \$2.4 million in damages agreeing that the pageant organizers not only rigged the contest but systematically destroyed her career by blackballing her from nightclubs around the country owned by the Pink Pony's owner, Jack Galardi.

(Atlanta Journal Constitution, www.ajc.com)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

HOPE THIS JUDGE DOESN'T MOVE TO THE
TENDERLOIN DISTRICT.

Winnipeg - A Winnipeg judge dealt a mugging victim a knockout punch this week by acquitting his alleged attacker and then berating the man for openly carrying money while walking through the inner city "I am not satisfied there is evidence of a robbery here. Maybe a breach of the public peace at best. But what I am satisfied is that we have a very stupid civilian, who admits that he was stupid," the judge said.

(Winnipeg Free Press, www.winnipegfreepress.com)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

FIRST THE NEWS, THEN CARTOONS... NOW
THE BIBLE?

Germany - Two lawyers said on Tuesday that they had written to German Family Minister Christine Bergmann asking her to officially class the Bible among books considered dangerous for children because of its violent content. The Holy Book contains passages of a "gruesomeness difficult to exceed" which are glorified as the will of God, the Bavarian lawyers Christian Sailer and Gert-Joachim Hetzel said in their submission to the minister on behalf of "some parents of minors".

(Independent Online, www.iol.com.za)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

CLEAREST SKIN IN PRISON...

Pennsylvania - A bank robber was sentenced to 24 years in prison. Instead of wearing masks, he and his accomplice had thought that rubbing citric acid on their faces would somehow blur their images on the security cameras.

(www.bewordz.com)

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR KOOKY LAW? SEND IT TO THE LAW NEWS. BE SURE TO INCLUDE A SOURCE, WITH YOUR SUBMISSION.

Hastings alumni donate sculpture

by John Hendrickson, ASUCH President

The first thing that I need to say is that the title of this article is deceptive! The reason is because it makes you think the Hastings Alumni Association is doing something new to make the student life at Hastings better - and that is true - but the Hastings Alumni Association contributes every year to bettering our campus environment and academic life. Constant and recurring examples are Cabaret and the Barrister's Ball, either of which would either suffer

severely or fail to occur were it not for the support of the Alumni!

On Monday, September 11, the Hastings Alumni Association will unveil their latest donation to the Hastings' campus - a sculpture to adorn the 198 building. The time is 3:40 p.m., and if you have a moment, please stop by and reciprocate all the support that the Alumni Association has shown us in the past and will continue in the future!

There's no mystery to passing the bar

Studying is not enough

Few law school graduates realize how daunting the essay portion of the bar exam will be. And general bar review courses fall way short in teaching the skills needed to score well on the essay exam. It's no wonder that roughly 50% of those who take the bar will fail.

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Editorial

Changes abound during start of academic year

by John Hendrickson, ASUCH President

Welcome back. I had to say that first because it's been so busy around campus with new classes and events that it seems like a month since school started, and I would have forgotten!

Career Services: We have a new director of Career Services - Sari Zimmerman. Please stop by and give her your congratulations! We look forward to a prosperous career services program in the future!

Welcome Back BBQ: Success! Once we had the cups (not our fault!), everything went smoothly. There were some real troopers in ASUCH who were staffing the hot grills and working out the logistics. If you see Jason Tarasek, Eric Spiegelman or Andrew Ingersoll, make sure you thank them! However, next time remember that it is OK to bring the cooks beer once in a while!!

Dining Commons: Seems dark in there, doesn't it? As of this writing, the administration is putting the final touches on a plan to increase the light. You may have noticed the odd shaped light fixture in the Law Caf  Dining Commons that looks different and is brighter. If everything goes as planned, the idea is to replace the 40 or so fixtures with those brighter lights. Of course, they will have to repaint over the winter break, since we will then be able to see in there!

Childcare: CS is our contracted childcare facility. Please contact Judy Chapman in Student Services if you have children that require super-

tenance side of things, all the dust from the outside work on the south elevation of the tower has nearly occluded the windows with dust on the windows! That work won't be done until November, but we hope to have the skyroom windows cleaned within the next few weeks (and then again at the end).

200 Building: The ivy is gone!!! One day over the summer I was walking by and there were 3 or 4 HUGE piles of ivy. Unfortunately, ivy is harmful to the building exterior and to take the necessary maintenance precautions, it needed to be removed. The work continues, and the scaffolding will be leaving during the month of November.

**EYE ON
ASUCH**



198 Building: Brace yourself. They are actually ahead of schedule on the 198 Building. Of course, by me saying that, I've jinxed them, but as of this writing they were a couple of weeks ahead. The project might be done as soon as early October!

Alumni Reception Center: Don't go in there! It's still a mess, and isn't getting any prettier in the near future! However, once they are done it will be a lot better for us all! It seems that there was a misdirection of some ventilation ducts when the ARC was being constructed, which is why it was always forest-fire hot in there! They are raising the ceilings, reworking the ventilation ducts and renovating the whole thing. Look for this to be reopened in November. ASUCH will return to using this forum for the Faculty Lecture Series.

Graduation Speaker: Just announced! Chief Justice Jeffrey L. Amestoy of the Vermont Supreme Court will address this year's graduating class! Congratulations Class of 2001! Special thanks to the graduation speaker selection committee - great job! Stay tuned to the Hastings Law News for more in-depth coverage.

Finally, ASUCH congratulates Professor Reuel Schiller for winning the William A. Rutter Teaching Award for Excellence. Look for other upcoming events and ASUCH announcements in the Hastings Weekly!

John Hendrickson
hendricj@uchastings.edu

The inside scoop from the admissions office

by Kip Darcy, dir., enrollment mgmt.

Each year around this time members of the enrollment management team give an enormous and collective sigh of relief. The most demanding part of our job regarding the class of 2003 is now complete. Four hundred and thirty-three first year students have matriculated to Hastings. I thought you would like to know what it took to bring you here.

The admissions office staff attended recruiting events in more than 65 different locations endlessly presenting the wonders of Hastings and our fair city. We answered questions regarding admis-

sions requirements until we slipped into speech patterns resembling religious chants. We slept in more hotel beds, ate more dubious restaurant meals and drove more rental cars than any human being should have to. Several of us feel like we work as evaluators for AAA. Our staff answered telephone calls, opened mail and assembled applications until they threatened to quit. Several did! Over 4,400 applicants applied for first year admission, a 10% increase over the previous year.

Committee members evaluated course work, contemplated the logic of standardized test scores, reviewed resumes, considered letters of recommendation, and read personal state-

"We know more about you than your families."

-Kip Darcy, director of enrollment management

ments. Did we read personal statements! We know more about you than your families. In some cases, we know too much. We made decisions. For those of you reading this article, you will agree, we made good choices.

Then we mailed you letters - letters of welcome, letters of instruction, and invitations to get to know us better. We waited for enrollment deposits and we packaged financial aid. Some of you may still be waiting for that aid. But now that you are here,

are we ever happy. What a class! This is the largest class to matriculate to Hastings in the past four years. You are an accomplished lot, exceeding our wildest expectations.

Now the process begins again. If you wish to assist us in our activities, stop by the Admissions Office. We can certainly use your help. If you have suggestions as to how we can better do our jobs, we are listening. Welcome!

Editorial

Letters to the Editor

Student Involvement Still

Strong at G.A.A.P.

Lisa Williams (2L)

When I would tell fellow law students I was off to work at G.A.A.P. last year, some would assume I was working for the clothing store. Now, as a student co-director of G.A.A.P., I'd like to explain.

The General Assistance Advocacy Project (a.k.a. G.A.A.P.) is a non-profit organization that provides legal advocacy and representation to applicants and recipients of public benefits. Nearly 200 people come to G.A.A.P. each day for assistance with problems regarding their County Adult Assistance Program benefits or Food Stamps, to receive mail and phone messages

at a stable location, and/or to obtain the residency verification they need to maintain eligibility for benefits. G.A.A.P. is located at 276 Golden Gate Ave., one block away from Hastings.

Hastings law students founded G.A.A.P. in 1985 to meet the need for public benefits advocacy on behalf of low-income individuals in the Tenderloin. Hastings law student volunteers make up the backbone of G.A.A.P.'s staff. Approximately two dozen students hold regular office hours during the academic year to perform client intake and advise clients who receive public assistance of their rights and responsibilities. Law student advocates at G.A.A.P. accompany clients through the confusing procedures and requirements and ensure that county workers follow their own regulations. These students have the opportunity to get involved in other

aspects of the organization, from representation of clients at administrative hearings, policy reform efforts, fund-raising, and organizational development. Three Hastings students serve as co-directors of the organization.

Many first-year students apply to volunteer at G.A.A.P. because it is one of the best opportunities for 1Ls to gain clinical experience. Students interview clients, advocate on their behalf, and see firsthand the importance of providing legal services to people with limited access to the legal system. "G.A.A.P. introduced me to street-level public interest work," says Adam Arms, staff attorney of the Coalition on Homelessness, Hastings '99. "As a 1st year student, it was eye-opening and inspiring to go outside the classroom and work with wronged clients who otherwise had no advocate."

G.A.A.P. accomplishes this with one full-time staff position, two full-time volunteers from the Jesus Volunteers Corp / Americorps, scores of law student volunteers, and the support of the Hastings community. G.A.A.P. is funded entirely by foundations and individual supporters, as it charges no fees for its services. Every year it has several fund raising events to join the public interest community and Hastings community together. Several events for the entire Hastings student body are in the works. Look out for them in the Hastings Weekly.

G.A.A.P. is seeking to form an administrative hearings team this year and also involve students in policy reform projects and other networking, outreach, and fundraising activities. Please call 415/928-8191 and ask for Amy, Michell, Morton, or Lisa if you are interested in learning more about G.A.A.P. or contributing towards their work.

Free time, anyone?

Kathleen Hunt (1L)

I wake up before 6 am every day, so getting a full night of sleep is a very foreign concept to me. As a first-year law student and the parent of a young child, I have trouble finding time to buy myself new underwear, let alone see a movie or read a novel. Contrary to what you might believe, Hastings College of the Law is not just a home away from home for college graduates - my two-year-old gets a lot more fun and excitement out of the laptop plugs on the desks than anyone else I have seen use them.

There are not any organizations on campus targeted to student parents, but that does not mean we do not exist. On the first day of Orientation, I saw another Hastings student in the parking lot greet his baby. To my joyful surprise, I've discovered two other parents are also in my section. "We're here and we're queer" may be catchphrase for the local gay population, but "we're here and we're TIRED" works for me.

So how are we supposed to do this? How are we supposed to balance our children, our families, our studies, and the remnants of whatever sanity we hope to maintain? The answer seems to be the same for us as it is for everyone else: time management, endurance, and lots of crossed fingers. I read while my son naps and while I ride on the public transit. After a full evening of "cheat races", bathtime, and lullabies, I take notes on what I've already read. In this way, I am not trying to absorb new information until my brain is back up to speed. Around midnight, I get ready for the next day by first making sure his backpack is full of diapers and a change of clothes for preschool. Then I check my own bag for all of the books and materials I will need. I just hope I do not take the wrong pack to class one of these days. I guess that is where the crossed fingers come in.

Hastings Law News

If there is to be a Hastings community, the students must have a voice

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Contributing Editors

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Jason Tarasek 2L
Holly Pranger 3L, Jennifer Swede 2L,
Danielle Lee 2L, Josh Kaplan, 2L

Editorial Policy Statement

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\$100 to the winner in the 3rd year Class

again

Thanks

