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Valparaiso University School of Law

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On Wednesday, October 10, 2012, Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller visited Valparaiso University School of Law to swear in Jonathan Sichtermann (Class of 2012) as a Deputy Attorney General in the Criminal Appeals section of the office. Greg Zoeller was elected Indiana's 42nd Attorney General November 4, 2008 and sworn into office January 12, 2009. Prior to being elected Attorney General, Zoeller served as the Chief Deputy to his predecessor, Steve Carter, making him the first to have served in the office prior to being elected. In addition, Zoeller had previously served as Assistant to Vice President Dan Quayle in the White House from 1989-1991 and earlier served then-Senator Quayle in both Washington and Indiana in legislative and executive capacities since 1982. His other government experience includes serving as Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General, Richard Thornburg, in 1988 and as Senior Counsel to the House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform and Oversight in 1998.

A commitment to service marks the career of Attorney General Zoeller and is also the mark he is making on the Office of the Attorney General. The event began with the Attorney General giving a short speech about the value of public service and helping the citizens of Indiana. There was a stillness in the air of Stride Courtroom before Zoeller started his speech. However, when he started talking, the stillness evaporated, a friendly vibration filled the room and he addressed those assembled as if he was a neighbor they had known for years. To the small crowd in Stride Courtroom, Zoeller was an elected official with a friendly demeanor, but to Sichtermann, Zoeller was a mentor. In his speech, Zoeller took a moment to praise Valpo for its well-known reputation of training skilled and dedicated public servants. He explained the law school has a talent for turning out attorneys in the public sector. Zoeller concluded by saying he "looks forward to the law school and the Attorney General's Office having a strong relationship."

After Zoeller spoke, Sichtermann took the official oath of office to serve as a Deputy Indiana Attorney General. Immediately after being sworn in, Sichtermann took the stage and delivered his first speech as a Deputy Attorney General. He gave advice to current students about what he had done over the last few years to lead him to this moment. He talked about passing the bar examination and how much Barbri started talking, the stillness evaporated, a friendly vibration filled the room and he addressed those assembled as if he was a neighbor they had known for years. To the small crowd in Stride Courtroom, Zoeller was an elected official with a friendly demeanor, but to Sichtermann, Zoeller was a mentor. In his speech, Zoeller took a moment to praise Valpo for its well-known reputation of training skilled and dedicated public servants. He explained the law school has a talent for turning out attorneys in the public sector. Zoeller concluded by saying he "looks forward to the law school and the Attorney General's Office having a strong relationship."

The Tabor Institute on Legal Ethics: The Supreme Court's Need for an Ethics Code

BY: MARK FOSCO + STAFF WRITER

On Friday, October 19, attorneys, faculty, and students filled Tabor classroom to hear Steven Lubet speak as part of the Tabor Institute on Legal Ethics, an annual Valparaiso University Law lecture series. Lubet's lecture was based on his paper Stonewalling, Leaks, and Counter-Leaks: SCOTUS Ethics in the Wake of NFIB v. Sebelius. He focused on whether the Supreme Court should be held to the same code of conduct as other United States judges.

Lubet is a professor at Northwestern University Law School, where he teaches courses in Legal Ethics, Narrative Structures and Trial Advocacy. He has also publicized over 100 articles concerning legal ethics. The "Supreme Court is the only court in the U.S., possibly in the world, that hasn't adopted a code of ethics," Lubet said in the opening of his lecture. "They have declined and refused all suggestions to." All federal judges in the U.S. are subject to the Code of Conduct for United States Judges. The Code provides ethical guidelines on judicial integrity, impartiality, and the avoiding misconduct. It requires judges to recuse themselves if they have personal knowledge of the disputed facts, a bias towards one of the parties, was earlier
Sichtermann praised the career planning office at the United States Attorney General's Office. When discussing how he became involved with the Attorney General's Office, Sichtermann said he went to the career planning center, accessed the names of attorneys and instead of asking them for jobs he went on "informational interviews." During these informational interviews, he was able to pick their brains and ask them questions like: "What do they look for in interns and future employees?"

The law school’s Westlaw account representative, Kay Halverson, will be on campus in the next few weeks to offer training sessions on how to use this new subscription. If you want to start using the subscription to prepare for class and final exams, follow the instructions below:

- Log-in to http://lawschool.westlaw.com
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- You will have to use the West Document Viewer to access these titles so make sure any pop-up blockers are disabled for westlaw.com.

If you don’t like reading study aids in an electronic format, consider using the second option available in the library, the print study aid collection. Print study aids are available at the circulation desk in the Reserve area and also in a new location in the Reference area facing the library staircase. The library recently purchased multiple copies of the Question & Answer Series of study aids which provide you with sample multiple choice and essay exam questions with commentary. Multiple copies of the Lexis Understanding series and Aspen Examples and Explanations series have also been purchased and will be placed on the Study Aids shelf in the reference collection on the main level of the library. These titles are currently for in-library use only so please replace the books once you have finished using them so that your classmates may also benefit from them. For more information on what study aids the library has, ask Galeilee and search for the particular area of law or study aid you are interested in or ask at the circulation or reference desks.

Dean Janoski-Haehlen can be reached at emily.janoskihaehlen@valpo.edu

THE FORUM
FPATUREY & STAFF
From the Law Library
Free Study Aids

BY: EMILY JANOSKI-HAEHLEN • ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR LIBRARY SERVICES & ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW

As the start of final exams quickly approaches, have you considered what study aids you might use to help you prepare? If you are on a tight budget or don’t want to purchase another study guide, consider using the FREE study aids provided by the library. There are two options for accessing study aids. The first option is to use electronic study aids which can be accessed 24/7 on campus or at your home using your Westlaw access. If you have not seen the flyers around the law school or read the library email advertising this new e-product, the library recently purchased an electronic subscription for every student to West Study Aids. This unlimited electronic access, via E-Products on the lawschool westlaw.com Home page, includes over 350 study aids in eleven series. The titles cover almost every area of law offered this semester and include the following study aid publications: Academic Success Series, Nutshells, Concise Hornbook Series, ExamPro, Quick Review Series, Black Letter Outline, Gilbert Law Summaries, Turning Point Series, Career Guides and High Court Case Summaries. Using the West Document Viewer you can search the titles by keyword, take notes and highlight as you would in a book, export your notes, and print select pages or notes (up to 120 pages per month). The law school’s Westlaw account representative, Kay Halverson, will be on campus in the next few weeks to offer training sessions on how to use this new subscription. If you want to start using the subscription to prepare for class and final exams, follow the instructions below:

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and studying helped him, “if you are serious about passing [the bar exam] you will succeed.” Sichtermann stressed the importance of Moot Court and Law Review, stating those experiences proved to be invaluable, especially when it came to interviewing for jobs (including the six person interview panel for the Attorney General’s Office). When discussing how he became involved with the Attorney General’s Office, Sichtermann said “I’ve always wanted to work in the public sector, I’ve always wanted to serve the people of Indiana or the United States.” Sichtermann praised the career planning office for his successful job search. When he was a 1L, Sichtermann went to the career planning center, accessed the names of attorneys and instead of asking them for jobs he went on “informational interviews.” During these informational interviews, he made it clear he was not asking for a job. He told these attorneys that he just wanted to pick their brains and ask them questions like: What do they look for in interns and future employees? Using information gleaned from those attorneys, was how he made his decision to “work for the people” and not a private firm. “Working for the Attorney General’s Office, I get the opportunity to work in many different areas. Everyday is a new learning experience, one day is criminal and one day it’s another area.” At the end of his speech he added, “I turned in my first Appellate Brief yesterday!” The Attorney General already has him hard at work for the people of Indiana. Adam is a 2L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com
ne of the original purposes in establishing the American Bar Association was to promote the improvement of legal education. In the late 19th century legal education took many forms and there was little in the way of guiding principles. As a result, quality was very uneven. The Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar was the first section established by the ABA and it has worked since the beginning to ensure high quality through accreditation standards, education of professors and deans, and the gathering and dissemination of information.

The larger organization today is not directly involved in legal education, and it generally becomes involved only when it perceives problems that affect the entire profession or the need for initiatives calling on resources beyond those of law schools and legal educators. The best known recent occasion when this occurred led to the MacCrate Report, which called on law schools to increase the emphasis on practice skills in the curriculum. The MacCrate Report was highly influential.

This past summer, the (former) President of the ABA established the Task Force on the Future of Legal Education to deal with a cluster of issues relating to law schools and their relationship with students, the profession, and regulators. The motivation for the Task Force was:

- The many criticisms of law schools that have been leveled in recent years, including criticisms in national media and in Congress;
- The impact of steadily rising tuition;
- The impact of changes in law practice and legal employment, some caused by the economic contraction and likely to be short term and some that are structural and may be of long-term impact;
- The need for rethinking of the form and content of the program of legal education in order to adapt it to present and anticipated needs of graduates and employers.

Former Chief Justice Randall Shepard is Chair of the Task Force and I have been appointed Reporter. As Reporter, I will have substantial responsibility in drafting the ultimate report and recommendations. The target date for submission of the report and recommendations to the ABA is fall 2013, so the project is on a very fast track.

The Task Force has refined the scope of its work into two clusters of questions. The first question deals with economic issues and asks first, what specific problems are caused by the cost of legal education for students, graduates, and others, and then asks what actions or plans can be undertaken by law schools, universities, the ABA and others to remedy these problems. The second question deals with issues of the delivery of legal education and its regulation, and asks first, what the functions and goals of U.S. law schools are or should be, and then how these functions and goals should affect:

- The missions of individual law schools
- The nature and demographics of students served
- The nature of programs of legal education
- Relationships of law schools with universities
- Relationships of law schools with the legal profession
- The cost and availability of legal services
- The demographics of the legal profession
- Law school finance
- The nature and role of the law faculty
- Law school accreditation.

The aim in this process is to develop focused action steps and plans that can be undertaken not only by law schools but also by other groups and organizations that have a stake in legal education and that can affect legal education's future success.

I have addressed some of these questions in my articles for The Forum and in other writings, and I hope you have had a chance to think about these questions yourself. Law schools are central, not only to our legal system, but also to our democracy and our economy, because law schools are the primary venue for training people who sustain the rule of law. So it is vital that we work to ensure a vibrant and ever improving system of law schools and legal education.

The web site for the Task Force is at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/taskforceonthefuturelegaleducation.html. There you can find a more complete statement of the questions being addressed and information about how to submit comments. I encourage you to share with the Task Force any concrete suggestions you have about action steps that can be part of the ultimate set of recommendations.

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THE POLITICS OF SANDY

Hurricane Sandy ripped across the Atlantic Ocean on its way to the United States. The storm claimed 51 lives in Haiti and 67 total in the Caribbean as it rolled over. Sandy stretched approximately 800 miles in width. Its projection eyed the Northeast from Boston to North Carolina and its eye was centered on New Jersey.

Sandy slammed into New Jersey around 8 p.m., with 80-90 mph winds and dumping record amounts of rain. A full moon also contributed to 14 ft. tides and battering tidal surges that pummeled the Jersey shoreline. There are at least 88 deaths from West Virginia to Connecticut. There are more than 8 million people without power, New York having approximately 350,000 alone.

With the election less than days away it will be interesting to see how Sandy's aftermath will influence voting, as well as, the presidential nominees' platforms.

FEMA the regulatory agency that handles federal emergency disaster relief is the focus of much of the debate between the two presidential candidates. Obama's platform positions a 14% decrease in FEMA funding that would lower FEMA's 2013 budget by roughly $1 billion from $7.1 billion to $6.1 billion. Obama justifies the reduction as a response to the curtailing costs of Hurricane Katrina. Obama notes that the $6.1 billion FEMA budget is still $500 million over its expected expenditure on relief. Obama's plan also includes provisions previously enjoyed by FEMA, such as indemnity from sanctions under the Budget Control Act.

Romney's plan is more ambiguous in terms of FEMA. Romney's plan does not specifically lay out an itemized FEMA budget, however FEMA is included in the agencies that face very large budget cuts in order to promote Romney's platform of smaller government. Romney's plan is to cut all domestic discretionary spending by 22%. About a third of those spending cuts include funding for disaster relief. This forecasts drastic reductions in federal, state and local government disaster relief funding. Romney justifies these cuts as deficit relief measures. Romney has previously mentioned, on record, the idea to make disaster relief a sole responsibility of the states. Although Romney's plan is murky when it comes to details, it is clear FEMA's funding is in jeopardy.

Damage estimates for Sandy are reported in the billions and rising, millions are without power and many homes were destroyed. Sandy's relief efforts will undoubtedly tax FEMA's coffers, making the candidates' budget plan for FEMA even more paramount. As the election draws nearer one can predict FEMA'S budget will become more and more prevalent as clean up begins and actual damage reports are released.

Hurricane Sandy will change the lives of many in the Northeast and its ramifications will be felt for years. However, coupled with the timing of the election, Sandy's impression could quite literally affect the entire nation and the world.

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THE DEAN'S CORNER

THE TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION

BY: JAY CONISON • DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW

FACULTY & STAFF

THE FORUM
No doubt you have heard a lot about the importance of "networking" as a career development tool that can lead to gainful employment. Simply put, networking is merely the process of making professional connections and building relationships. There are endless ways to network, but one often overlooked way is engaging in active participation in a bar association. There are bar associations based on both state and local geographic areas, practice areas, and religious or ethnic affiliation. At the very least, law students should join at least one bar association in either the city or state where they plan to practice.

Now "active participation" does not mean attending one cocktail reception. Active participation involves attending an association's social events throughout the year. It also means participating in an association's community service projects. However, the most effective way to actively participate is through engaging in the work conducted by a section or committee sponsored by the bar association(s) you join.

Let's take a look at the Indiana State Bar Association. It has 12,500 members and 80% of the attorneys in the state belong to this Association. There are 26 Sections for various practice area specialties including Governmental Practice, Elder Law, Criminal Justice, Business Law, Litigation, Intellectual Property, Health Law, Taxation and many more. These sections develop and plan Continuing Legal Education seminars, manage e-discussion Lists, publish newsletters and provide articles for other publications. Each section needs assistance with research and writing as well as administrative assistance at its events. The Business Law Section just met in Indianapolis last week for its annual conference. Over 40 Valpo alumni attended a school-sponsored reception at the conference and a number of Valpo students attended as well.

What specific things could a student do as the member of a bar association section or committee? A student could easily offer his or her services by preparing a short article for a section newsletter that is sent to hundreds of attorneys. Student members frequently can assist with the research and writing for updated versions of the Handbooks a section may publish. Some sections could use assistance with monitoring pending legislation. A student could work with a small group of section members in planning a CLE. A student could volunteer to provide administrative support at a social event. There are many, many roles a student could play as a member of a specific section of the Indiana State Bar Association or as a section member of any other state or local bar association.

Fortunately, the Indiana State Bar Association welcomes law student members. Students can join for a flat rate of $25 which covers their membership until they graduate. They receive a membership in the Young Lawyers Section and membership in 3 sections of their choice at no additional charge. By enrolling in a section, students automatically receive a periodic newsletter for the section and are included in that section’s e-discussion list. State and local bar associations around the country encourage law student members and in most instances have greatly reduced rates for student members. For example, law students are eligible for a free electronic membership in the Illinois State Bar Association and pay only $12 per year for its print publications. Here in northwest Indiana there are at least four local bar associations that are very interested in having law student members: Lake County Bar Association, Porter County Bar Association, Porter County Inns of Court and the Women Lawyers Association. These groups are so interested in law students that they are participating in Valparaiso Law’s Professional Development Day this year. No matter where a student plans to practice, he or she has multiple bar association opportunities.

Students who actively participate in bar associations can gain self-confidence and build their reputations through their bar association committee work. They can gain access to resources and attorneys in specific practice areas of interest. They can begin to build their reputations within the legal profession through their bar association activities. Equally important, they can make contacts that will assist them as they seek employment and glean intelligence they need to know in order to job hunt successfully. When they become a new lawyer, they will already have a support network in place through their bar association activities.

There is no downside to belonging to a bar association. Students have only positive things to gain from being active in an association. Consider joining at least one bar association if not more and begin to identify ways to become involved. One of our 2009 alums, Dino Pollock, recently told a group of students that the “legal profession is not for shrinking violets.” Get out there and find a bar association that works for you, one where you can make a difference. You will be amazed at how your active participation leads to open doors.

Victoria Ryan can be reached at victoria.ryan@valpo.edu

The FORUM
Monthly Photo Contest

October Mystery Photo: Book elevator in the Law Library
Winner: Debbie Blennerhassett!

Email your responses to vuslforum@gmail.com
PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROMISE FOR CHEAPER EDUCATION

BY: AUSTIN GWYN • STAFF WRITER

In the presidential debate dated October 3, 2012, President Obama and Governor Romney were both asked about how they would do to get the economy on track. President Obama said, "I wanna make sure that we keep tuition low for our young people." As I am currently a student, you can imagine that this is a very important topic to me. Time and time again, in various speeches, including the most recent state of the union address, the President has expressed his desire to make education cheaper for people like me. In the debate, President Obama further said "When it comes to making college affordable, whether it's two-year or four-year, one of the things that I did as president was we were sending $60 billion to banks and lenders as middlemen for the student loan program, even though the loans were guaranteed. So there was no risk for the banks or the lenders, but they were taking billions out of the system. "And we said, "Why not cut out the middleman?" And as a consequence, what we've been able to do is to provide millions more students assistance, lower or keep low interest rates on student loans. This is an example of where our priorities make a difference." (Candidates Debate, University of Denver, Colorado, Oct. 3, 2012.)

Let me tell you what my experience has been with the private sector program and its "middle men" as compared to the current federal loan program. I want to share this story in the hope that it will help those of you who read it to understand the kind of help President Obama wants to give us.

I am currently a student of law at Valparaiso University. It is a private school, but the expense of law school is comparable to most other public and private law schools. Tuition costs me in the neighborhood of $20,000 per semester. This may sound like a lot, but I assure you it gets much worse by the time you finish three years of law school. A typical student is likely to have in the neighborhood of $120,000 in loan debt by the time they finish their program. This is often more for those pursuing dual degrees, and can be three to four times larger for students pursuing various medical degrees.

President Barack Obama
Source: whitehouse.gov

As I have been a student on and off since the year 2000, I am in a fairly unique position, since I happen to have both a private student loan and a federal student loan. Through these two loans I differ in principal, there are other ways that loans can be compared. Specifically, what matters to anyone familiar with crunching numbers is the interest rate. My private student loan started out around 5%, but it was one of those scary, variable interest rates they warn you about. In the past several years this interest rate has averaged around 4%, rarely ever exceeding the 5% initial rate.

When President Obama instigated his takeover of the student loan system and eliminated those "middle men" (used in a derogatory fashion), every student in America had to start getting loans from Uncle Sam. And just to make sure students were "protected", the interest rate would be fixed, not variable. That sounds all well and good, until you learn the interest rate is 8%, practically double the rate of my private loan.

Let's crunch some numbers. I will make this as simple as I can for those of you reading who aren't number crunchers. My principal, or total loan amount is $120,000. We will run two sets of data, one at 4% interest and the other at 8%. Even the layman can already see that in the long run 8% interest will cost me more money. But how much money?

If I spread my payments out over 30 years, 8% interest will cost me $110,742.89 more than 4% interest. And this is just interest. In other words that is over a hundred thousand dollars more than the principal of $120,000. My total out of pocket expense is now over $230,000, representing a 92% growth in my out of pocket expense. That is what business people like to call the time value of money; although this isn't my value, it is the value enjoyed by the government.

If, on the other hand, I pay the loan off in 20 years, this difference in additional cost is reduced to $66,372.41, representing a 55% growth in my out of pocket expense. If I pay it off in 10 years, this difference is reduced to $28,918.74, representing a 24% growth. If I pay it off in 5 years, this difference is reduced to $13,391.08, representing an 11% growth.

Finally, if I figured out a way to pay it all off in one year, this difference is only $2,647.48, representing only a 2.21% growth. But how many of the "young people" will be likely to do that? President Obama boasted of the $60 billion that was being given for student aid, but what he isn't telling you is how profitable a security interest this is for the government. (Who wouldn't buy stocks in a program promising 11%, 24%, 55%, or 92% growth with monthly payouts.)

If President Obama is going to slander the "middle men" for taking "billions" out of the system, presumably in profit, then what should we think about a government that is likely taking "billions" more for itself? Suddenly, I am beginning to feel a lot like an indentured servant...

Austin is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

Tabor Institute on Legal Ethics...continued from front page

involved in the case as a lawyer, or has a financial interest that would be affected by the outcome of the case.

According to Lubet, the ObamaCare case once again raised concerns for the Court to adopt a comprehensive Code of Conduct. In the wake of the case, there were implications that Supreme Court Justices talked outside of the court - they complained to journalists about the vote Chief Justice Roberts delivered. Such practice, says Lubet, would be unethical anywhere else in the legal system.

In the Chief Justice's year-end report, Justice Roberts said there was no need for the Court to adopt a Code because he doesn't believe that it would answer all ethical questions, nor guarantee integrity. Lubet explained how this is a circular argument, "judges have so much integrity they don't need a code. And if they had a code, they would probably violate it."

Lubet suggests the Supreme Court change its recusal practices on solo decision-making. Currently, each Supreme Court justice decides, alone, whether or not to recuse him or herself from the case. Lubet sees this as a major problem because he believes it is "impossible for an individual to be fully aware of their own biases - there is a load of science to back this up."

Lubet said the Supreme Court justices think they are in touch with their own biases and compared that paradox to physicians, who don't fully rely on science to back this up.

Lubet said the Supreme Court justices think they are in touch with their own biases and compared that paradox to physicians, who don't fully rely on science to back this up. A reasonable proposal, Lubet said, would be for the entire Supreme Court to review disqualifications and recusals.

Chief Justice Roberts mentioned three reasons why solo decision-making is acceptable: lower court judges don't review each other's recusals, a full-court review would suggest justices are attempting to freeze-out another justice, and recusals should be used sparingly because there are no substitute justices.

Throughout the second half of his lecture, Lubet dissected each of the Chief Justice's viewpoints and disagreed with the Chief Justice by pointing to basic legal principles. The law professor thinks it is ridiculous to believe the justices would conspire to recuse another. "The judicial power of the United States lies in one Supreme Court, not nine individual justices," Lubet said.

After about a 90-minute lecture, Steven Lubet thanked the audience and fielded some questions. Lubet said he had wanted to visit this law school for the past 50 years, and he was "emotionally happy to visit the school" that day.

Mark is a 2L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

Steven Lubet
Photo by: JEFF LANGE

President Barack Obama
Source: whitehouse.gov

Photo by: JEFF LANGE

Tabor Institute on Legal Ethics...continued from front page

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Steven Lubet
Photo by: JEFF LANGE
TRIAL ADVOCACY INTRA-SCHOOL COMPETITION

BY: MATT HELTING • STAFF WRITER

Many have seen the numerous signs around campus discussing either freeing or prosecuting an individual by the name of John Green. Although the intrigue is high, the only way to truly understand the character of John Green is for students and faculty alike to attend the 2012 Trial Advocacy Intra-School Competition Finals.

John Green is accused of murdering his ex-wife Kelly Green. Kelly Green was shot in the head from an unknown distance while helping pick up equipment from her son’s soccer game in Freedom Park, located in the City of Spartanville. With no direct evidence, no eye witnesses and relying on circumstantial evidence, the State of Sparta has brought first-degree murder charges against John Green. The State relies on the fact that John Green was one of two departmental snipers with the Spartanville Police Department. The State contends John had the motive, opportunity and intent to murder Kelly. After going through a recent divorce, losing the custody of his wife and children, losing his house, being forced to pay child support and being almost $200,000 in gambling debt, the insurance policy John took on his ex-wife screams motive. On the other hand, the Defense counsel for John Green points towards another individual who had motive and opportunity to murder Kelly Green. The defense claims this individual blamed the former doctor Kelly Green for the loss of his wife and kids and admitted to stalking Kelly for weeks.

The Competition will be November 8th at 6:30pm in the Porter County Courthouse, in the Courtroom of the Honorable Judge Bradford. Come watch the full trial of John Green from Motions in Limine all the way to closing arguments. The sitting Judge in this case will be the Honorable Judge Bradford, with Professors Bodensteiner and Vandercoy acting as jury members to decide the final outcome of the case. John Green’s life is on the line and both the attorneys for the State and the Defense will decide his fate based on their knowledge of the Federal Rules of Evidence and how to successfully run a trial. This will be a trial you will not want to miss.

Trial Advocacy Intra-School Finals, November 8, 2012, at 6:30pm. Come find out the fate of John Green.

Matt is a 3L and can be reached at vastforum@gmail.com

VETERANS DAY 5K FUN RUN/WALK

The Veterans Day 5K Fun Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, November 10th at 2pm. The event will be at Valparaiso University. Check in starts at 1pm in front of the VU Fitness Center. This event is sponsored by the Valparaiso University School of Law Military and Veterans Law Association, Running Club, Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, Phi Alpha Delta, and the Student Bar Association Wellness Committee.

- Pre-registration: $10
- Registration at event: $15
- All proceeds will be donated to Help a Vet Get a Pet!
- Adoption booth on-site
- ALL PETS WELCOME!
- For registration email: valpomvla@gmail.com

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CROUCHING EAGLE, PAPER DRAGON?

BY: JOHN MANUEL HUTCHINSO • STAFF WRITER

China wants a blue water navy and an aircraft carrier fleet. Its first carrier just entered active duty, though it has yet to officially acquire planes. The Chinese government has stated its intent to increase the Chinese Navy and project Chinese regional power dominance. The Chinese have also embarked on a race to develop the next generation of stealth strike fighters with the Chengdu J-20, which seems like a bulkier, reverse-engineered combination of the F-22, the F-35, and the EuroFighter. It is generally accepted that the Chinese military is lying about how much they are spending. They are not lying about spending more, which is the sort of thing North Korea does, they are lying about spending less, which is more suspicious. Some would say this deserves careful attention and is a threat to American foreign policy and trade. Others would argue that any ‘threat’ is not imminent, too expensive to waste resources, and that China is a paper dragon.

The Chinese government has already developed the world’s first anti-ship ballistic missile, called the DF-21D, which has caused USPACOM to change its operations and general Pacific strategy. These moves by China either require more technology, increasing US military asymmetry, more ‘boots,’ so that the United States can meet Chinese strength, or better strategy. The problem is China has a two million man army, so boots are not the answer. Furthermore, an arms race is also not the answer because the US military is already so far ahead. Careful strategy and meticulous planning are the key. The DoD budget is being trimmed and the military service branches are scaling back their operations where possible, mostly because they were overstretched from the Iraq and Afghan conflicts, one of which has ended, the other winding down. Many internship programs throughout the DoD have been cut, which is bad news for current 1-Ls and 2-Ls. Some parts of the military are offering early discharges to service personnel who want them. This sounds like a tactical retreat from global dominance, like the Romans leaving Britain. The US hegemony is still unmatched despite the cutbacks.

A significant portion of military spending is invested in research and development. What the US military lacks in boots, it more than makes up for in M1A1 Abrams Tanks, MQ1-C Grey Eagles, LGM-118 Peacekeepers, the Boeing X-37B, and MILSTAR. The military branches spend billions of dollars developing tools, instruments, and weapons, which end up spinning off into other uses. These emergent technologies are what make the United States stand out as a global leader. Mastering the technology of the future gives a state leverage in international diplomacy in the present. In order to continue global American dominance, it obviously cannot be at the end of a barrel. The days of British gunboat diplomacy have gone the way of the dodo and went about the same time too. Violence begets more violence, which puts the globe on a short route to chaos. A bad economy, energy dependence and food dependence are not in America’s national security interest.

Fortunately, the American Midwest is packed with fields of food. However, the food gets used on ethanol, which robs from American exports and does not produce much energy. However, energy consumption is greater than it has ever been and the Middle East is more unstable than ever, so energy independence is crucial to insulate the economy. However, the economy is not in a position where private and public investment in energy alternatives and emergent technologies abound. However, the military continues to benefit from such technologies so that it can protect American foreign trade and secure America’s heartland and its greatest product: food. And so we come full circle: Food, energy, investment, and defense; the four horsemen of foreign policy.

What made the Roman Empire so weak after the Emperor Aurelian died was that none of his successors quite had his knack for international affairs. The same was true for Germany after Otto von Bismarck died. American military might is still unrivaled. China is not a threat, nor is its aircraft carrier fleet, for at least the next few decades. However, Afghanistan and Iraq have shown us that not having boots on the ground can be a weakness, when trying to stabilize a region. If you were President, where would you channel resources? What if you were Secretary of State? What if you were one of the Joint Chiefs? Should the answers to these three questions be different? One last question: Is global American military might a lasting guarantee for peace? The bipolar hegemony of the Cold War would suggest maybe, the first decade of American unipolar hegemony (1990s) would suggest yes, but the second decade would suggest no (2001-2011). For my part, I hope to be an Army JAG Officer, whatever the future or US foreign policy may bring: hopefully continued peace, prosperity, and wise counsel.

John is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@
gmail.com

RECIPES FROM A THRIFTY 3L

BULGOGI PO-BOY

Recipe: Bulgogi Po-Boy

Ingredients:
- Jimmy John’s day old bread
- Iceberg lettuce, shredded
- Tomatoes
- 2-3 lbs beef chuck

Marinade:
- 1/2 cup of soy sauce
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- A few large squeezes of honey
- 3-5 stalks of green onion, finely chopped
- 3-5 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 Tbl water
- 1 Tbl sesame oil

Optional Spicy Pepper Aioli:
- Sriracha
- Hot Sauce
- Mayonnaise

(Combine hot sauce and mayonnaise in equal parts and stir)

Directions:
- Thinly slice the beef chuck. It helps to put it in the freezer for about an hour before slicing.
- Combine the marinade ingredients and mix well to dissolve the sugar and honey. Combine the marinade and meat in a Ziploc bag and place in a large bowl in case of bag malfunction. Marinade the meat at least 4-6 hours, preferably overnight.
- Grill the marinated meat. Depending on how thin you sliced it, this shouldn’t take more than a few minutes on each side. (If you are sautéing the meat, sesame oil adds a nice flavor, but any vegetable oil will work).
- Construct your sandwich, top with optional spicy pepper aioli, and enjoy.

Recommended drink pairing:
No Korean meal is complete without a glass of soju. Soju is a popular Korean drink similar to vodka, but slightly sweeter and not as strong. A nice chilled glass of soju, combined with a hot bulgogi po’ boy, makes for one “dericious” combination.

This month’s recipe is a twist off the classic Korean dish, bulgogi. Bulgogi literally translates to “fire meat” (Bal-fire; Gogi-meat), and as its name implies, it is typically grilled. If you don’t have a grill, cooking it in a skillet is ok too. If you don’t have a skillet, go get one, it’s a staple item of cookware.

Sticking with the thrifty theme, I’ve chosen chuck as the meat cut of choice. Chuck is pretty affordable but it’s also pretty fatty, so you’ll want to make sure to trim it well. As far as the bread, Jimmy Johns sells day old bread that works great for homemade sandwiches and it’s pretty cheap at around $.50/loaf.

Brian is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@
gmail.com

By: BRIAN PARK • STAFF WRITER
This past month, the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund executive board attended the 20th Annual National Animal Law Conference at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. Our board spent two full days learning about all the new developments and ideas in animal law. There were people from all across the country as well as international participants in attendance. The sessions were very diverse in topic and gave a wonderful overview of what can be done to help all species of animals, not just domestic dogs and cats.

To highlight a couple of the discussions, our favorite panel was: Domestic Violence Protection Civil and Criminal. The speakers were Scott Heiser and Maya Gupta. This panel was focused on the link between animal abuse and domestic violence. Mr. Heiser is a prosecutor in Oregon and spoke about how many states are now requiring mandatory reporting of child abuse by vets, much like there is mandatory reporting of child abuse by teachers. Also, he mentioned that in Michigan, they have mandatory arrest for animal abusers. Additionally, by working as a prosecutor this could provide a way to work in the animal law field without being a staff attorney for a major organization.

The second speaker, Ms. Gupta, works for a wonderful organization called the Ahimsa House in Georgia. Knowing that many domestic violence victims will not leave the abuser without their pet, the purpose of Ahimsa House is to board these animals while the victim leaves their abuser and transitions into their new life. While this is not totally legal in nature, it was something that nobody on our board had ever thought about.

Another panel we attended was titled: What’s New in Litigation and Litigation. Our takeaway from this discussion was that 2012 has been a relatively good year for animals as far as cases being won. While there are always setbacks and losses, several improvements are on the horizon. First, the case of Cramer v. Brown out of California held that battery cages for chickens and veal and gestation crates will be prohibited in California starting in 2015. Even though there is a three-year gap between the ruling and the start date, this is an incremental win.

Second, in the case of Ray v. Jambos Ranch, a wild bear was finally released from captivity after being kept at a roadside zoo in a cement cage for several years. The owners in this case have been prohibited from owning another bear. There have also been numerous new pieces of legislation introduced this year that will help animals.

One new piece of legislation is titled the Veteran Dog Training Therapy Act (HR 198). This would allow veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (“PTSD”) to work with shelters and rescues to help train the animals for other veterans suffering from PTSD. Another new legislative effort is called the Canine Members of the Armed Forces Act. By passing this Act, animals used in helping the armed forces would be recognized as canine members of the armed forces instead of military property as they are now. It would also allow the handler of the animal to adopt the animal when they retire.

One last panel we really enjoyed was on the topic of Ag-Gag laws. Ag-Gag laws are laws that prohibit civilians from going onto/into a factory farm and filming the condition of the animals and then releasing that video. Some also make it a crime to lie on a job application (for a farming job) if you check “no” on a question about intent to film or working with an animal rights organization. Iowa is the state that is pushing the hardest to get these laws passed because they have had the most instances of released video from their farms. Something interesting we learned about this is that the FBI considers animal rights activists to be the number one domestic terrorism threat. They also consider charging people who film undercover as terrorists. A last point about this, Indiana is currently considering an Ag-Gag law even though there have been no reported undercover videos from Indiana.

Overall, we had an amazing experience in Portland. We met several influential people in the animal law world and many other students. The city of Portland is wonderful, the law school is beautiful and we learned a great amount about what is up and coming in the animal law world. Katherine is a 3L and can be reached at vsisforum@gmail.com

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**IPLA ACTIVITY HOSTED BY HARTMAN GLOBAL IP**

 phi Alpha Delta, Amnesty International and the Latino Law Student Association are pleased to announce the annual Adopt-A-Family (AAF) service project. This year, we are adopting four families through Porter County Salvation Army and eleven children through LaPorte County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

The Salvation Army’s AAF program matches local impoverished families with sponsors to provide for their tangible needs at Christmas. Without the benefit of an adoption, these families would be looking forward to a very grim holiday. Being adopted is designed to be a once or, very rarely, twice in a lifetime event for recipient families. The families compile a wish list for toys, clothing, household items and assistance with utilities. Each member of the household will receive at least two new items, and the family will receive food for four to seven days.

In addition to the adoption of families, this year’s AAF project includes the adoption of eleven local children living in residential placement facilities. Sadly, these children often go without gifts at Christmas. The children individually create their Christmas list they have made in several years.

From November 5 to November 16, members of PAD, AI and LLSA will be handing out ornaments. Each ornament contains information about a family member and one gift that he or she has requested. You can help by picking up an ornament and purchasing the item listed. Please return your unwrapped gift to the AAF table in the Atrium from November 26 to November 30 during chapel break.

You are also invited to our Gift Sorting Party on November 30. Come help us celebrate this wonderful opportunity to make the holidays much brighter for four families and eleven children.

Thank you in advance for your time and generosity!

For more information, contact Whitney Rhew (whitney.rhew@valpo.edu), Suzanne Kleinedler (suzanne.kleinedler@valpo.edu) or Cecilia Lopez (cecilia.lopez@valpo.edu).
LAW ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT- INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

On Thursday, October 25, 2012, Valparaiso Law alumni, faculty, students and friends of the Law School gathered for a networking reception, held in conjunction with the Indiana State Bar Association’s Annual Business Meeting. The event took place at the JW Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis, IN. Heavy hors d’oeuvres, wine and beer were served. Jeffery Earl, President of the Valparaiso University School of Law-Central Indiana Alumni Council, extends a thank you to all the alumni, students and friends for a wonderful reception. Please check the alumni page within the coming weeks for more photos from the reception. The Alumni Relations staff encourages attendees to fill out a survey about the reception at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Indyalumnireception.

For more information on Alumni Events please contact Vanessa Verner at 219-465-7802 or vanessa.verner@valpo.edu.

ThankYou!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join Valparaiso Law alumni, faculty, students and friends of the Law School for a networking and social event.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Club Soda
235 E. Superior St.
Fort Wayne IN 46802

Students are welcome to attend this notable event for the opportunity to meet alumni!

Heavy hors d’oeuvres, wine and beer will be served. Please R.S.V.P.: www.valpo.edu/law/alumni-event-rsvp
The 3L's started their comeback. The SBA officers took home the cup. But by the third inning the rules were modified and instructed the 1L's to spin around twice before quite enough to defeat their more experienced 2L's. The competition started in the 1L's favor, but the 17 runs weren't enough to win.

The 1L's scored four runs their first time at bat, but by the third inning the game was called 17-7. The 3L's then claimed victory.

This advice really struck me hard. I realized that as much as I hated to admit it, he was right. I had been working myself up about something so silly that the single thing I was worrying about, in the grand scheme of life, was consuming way more time than it should. Life is too short for us to dwell on the bad rather than focus on the good. That night after I spoke with my friend, I pulled out my journal. Now if you know me, you know that my life revolves around lists of all sorts, including an annual goal list for the year. What I realized was that it had been quite a while since I had written anything or checked anything off. That night, my "to-do something happy" was reading my past journal entries. One in particular will always stand out; it's the very first one I ever wrote in that journal and the sole reason why I started writing again after many years.

The entry had been written as I had just returned from Paris on a study-abroad trip and was on a coach bus back to my undergraduate college post winter break. The previous few months had been a spiral of ups and downs and I felt like I didn't know who I was anymore. I didn't know what to focus on to make myself happy or even what it was anymore that did make me happy. That night, I wrote this, "... life is too short to spend it complaining when you could be out there changing tomorrow [by] living new experiences and taking risks [today]."

Now, just coming back from Paris, I was on an emotional-high. I had accomplished more and taken more risks in the 2.5 weeks I was there than I had felt I had done in the last 12 months. I did not want that feeling to go away. There was only one thing I could think to do to keep the momentum continuing and that was to create a "bucket list" of my goals for the upcoming year.

That year, my goal heading at the top of the next page was "2010: Be Present." I can honestly say that 2010 was one of my best years ever. I graduated college, was accepted to law school and so much more. This was the beginning of a new tradition for me, every year since on January 1st I make a new list for the new year. The end of this academic semester is quickly approaching us, but there is still time. Time to change how you feel, time to learn a new hobby, time to call that friend you have not spoken to in months, time to do something for you. As you prepare for the Thanksgiving break, remember this "Pearl of Wisdom": Keep Calm and Carry On. Yes, that phrase is all around us, but how often do we actually do it? As law students, it's probably not as often as we should. Therefore, I challenge each of you to do one thing today that will make you happy while remembering that the thing or person making you feel stressed or upset, well it probably is not worth your precious time. Be thankful for those things and people that continue to be worth it.

Jessica is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

**EVENTS**

**CARDOZO CUP**

"Have bat will travel" - dizzy bat that is. The 1L's took on the 3L's in the annual Cardozo Cup softball competition. It was a clash of the Titans after the 2L's failed to field a team. The competition started in the 1L's favor, but the 17 runs weren't quite enough to defeat their more experienced counterparts. The 3L's finished "victorious" and took home the cup.

The 1L's scored four runs their first time at bat, but by the third inning the rules were modified and the 3L's started their comeback. The SBA officers instructed the 1L's to spin around twice before every at bat. They scored a total of three home runs in the next innings. By the seventh inning the teams were tied 7-7 and went into a heated overtime inning. The 1L's scored ten more runs in that inning and the game was called 17-7. The 3L's then claimed "victory."

As per tradition, teams created law themed shirts and celebrated as a group after the game. The 3L's sported black "Hit it and Acquit it" and in contrast the 1L's wore yellow "Live by a Code" honor code t-shirts. Spirited crowds whose energy was fueled by free pizza supported both teams.

Kylee is an LL and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

**WLSA BREAST CANCER AWARENESS**

WLSA Bake Sale Fundraiser for American Cancer Society

WLSA presents a check for $485 to be donated to the American Cancer Society in honor of breast cancer survivor Jolene Cieniawski ('11).

WLSA Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk Valparaiso, IN--10/7/12
R
ember when you were about thirteen, right on the precipice of being "grown up" in your own teenage mind? When I was thirteen my parents were dead set on keeping me a "kid"—usually in the most humiliating ways they could find—so I fought back then. (Truthfully, thanks Mom and Dad for not letting me grow up too fast. I owe you one, or more accurately about a thousand.) They would do things like make me order off the kids menu when we went out to dinner and not let me watch rated "R" horror movies without their approval and the holidays—oh the holidays. I still sat at the KIDS table. I can still remember my indignation today. I would set the table and I remember thinking that if someone gave me a plastic glass to drink my Welch's Sparkling Grape Juice out of that was going to be it—I was outta there. A TEENAGER could only put up with so much from their Parental Units (that was the "cool" way to refer to your parents back then when you thought they were being entirely unreasonable—which was practically always). What do I think now? Well now that I really am an adult I think that teenage me totally didn't appreciate life when the going was good. In regards to my parents' aforementioned torture:
A.) I wish I could still order off the kids menu—it's more than enough food and it's cheaper. As a broke law student I routinely order kids meals from McDonald's—(the toys aren't nearly as cool as they used to be by the way).
B.) Most horror movies are terrifying—I'm literally terrified the entire time. I still don't know why I watch them.
C.) The kids table at Thanksgiving is awesome. Seriously, my nieces and nephews and brother have way funnier conversations, everyone makes a volcano out of their mashed potatoes, AND there is absolutely no politics talk. That's what I call a win-win-win.
D.) My parents knew me too well: I should probably always drink out of plastic—I am truly a walking catastrophe. The number of wine glasses that have fallen victim to my klutziness is not even funny. I'm singlehandedly keeping glassmakers in the green during this recession.

My point here? The relationship we each have with our youth. As we get older there is so much emphasis on growing up, being an adult, being responsible. This recently struck me as ironic when a very friendly Halloween costume store owner told me that Halloween is a 3 billion dollar a year industry. Why is it that we are expected to let go of all of the things that we loved about our youth except for this one day a year when we are allowed (and encouraged I might add) to dress up like goons? I call it a time-out.

I'm not saying that we should all quit our jobs, stop paying our bills, and spend all future income on Beanie Babies and Pogs (though I'll admit it sounds appealing). I'm just saying that maybe, just maybe, it is okay to embrace those silly things that used to make us so happy. In my opinion, a Saturday morning spent watching old cartoons and eating Fruity Pebbles is completely and totally acceptable. I don't see anything wrong with owning grown up footie pajamas (so long as you don't mind being made fun of because let's be honest, aside from being awesomely warm, they were always ridiculous). And still owning twisted and playing it, regularly—is not only okay, it's awesome.

So, this month I encourage you to do one thing every week that helps you stay young and carefree. Do something ridiculous. Bedazzle those pants if you really want. Play Mortal Kombat on a Saturday for six hours if it makes you happy. Get crazy—buy tickets to that Back Street Boys reunion tour—or maybe just listen to their CDs (you know you own them all) in your car on the way to work. Whatever you do, just don't forget that while growing up is inevitable, it doesn't have to be all suit jackets and case files twenty-four, seven. It is important to have a stress reliever and an outlet when the going gets tough. Hold on to that inner nineties kid, because let's be honest: the nineties, home to the Fresh Prince, MASH, Koala Yummies, and the TMNT were the best. So here's to growing up but still staying a Toys R Us Kid at heart.

Ashley is a 3L and can be reached at vsusforum@gmail.com

FOR THE LOVE OF SPORTS

LANCE'S CONUNDRUM

BY: JOEL MCCLELLAN • STAFF WRITER

The Lance Armstrong story is truly a sad one. Could one athlete fall so far? I will fully admit I think/thought he was clean while becoming a 7-time Tour de France Champion. After all, Lance never had a positive drug test (albeit he did test positive for cortisone in 1999, but he had a "prescription" for a saddle sore). Furthermore, Lance has been named as "the most tested athlete of all-time" by himself and countless others. Is he innocent until proven guilty?

If Lance is truly guilty then how did he pass so many tests? Maybe it was because he used "the most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program the sport has ever seen," according to the United States Anti-Doping Agency ("USDA"). After reading through the USDA report, it appears the bulk of the evidence against Lance was from ex-teammates. What was their incentive to lie? Call me naïve, but I am still on the fence as to whether Lance doped and is a cheat. There are just too many unanswered questions for me to affirmatively categorize Lance as a cheater.

Maybe I still believe in Lance because of how extraordinary he was on the bike. I will never forget getting up early on my summer vacations, tuning into Versus and seeing Lance climb up the different mountain chains of the Pyrenees and the Alps. How can one forget his epic battles with Jan Ullrich, who finished second to Lance three different times in the Tour de France. It is well documented how powerful his heart is and how his resting heart rate is ridiculously low. Maybe he is the most gifted athlete of our time. How many people did Lance inspire through the years? Does he still inspire people? It is no coincidence he still has around 3.8 million Twitter followers.

Maybe those who testified were jealous of Lance. Yes, cycling is a team sport but just like every team, there is a leader. Unlike most team sports, cycling has one leader and that leader competes for the yellow jersey, which designates the leader of the Tour de France. Each team member is responsible for a job. The job could be a pace setter, support rider (for domestiques), or a supply gopher (not really the correct term). It is not hard to imagine lesser-known teammates getting jealous of Lance, who received an unprecedented rise in stardom. Also, how many book deals have ex-teammates signed or will sign in the future because of this scandal? Motive?

Maybe I still believe in Lance because of how successful his cancer fighting foundation, Livestrong, has become. To date, Livestrong has raised around $500 million for cancer research. Amazing. Those famous Livestrong bracelets have raised around $375 million. Granted, they have lost some of their luster recently. Lance has inspired countless cancer patients to not give up and to fight the disease.

On the other hand, maybe he did dope. Who wins the Tour de France seven times, consecutively? Maybe he did run the most sophisticated doping program we have ever seen. Maybe Lance was greedy. Maybe his ex-teammates testified truthfully. Maybe Lance lied under oath. Maybe Lance fooled everyone.

What is Lance's next move? Well, I guess it depends on if he doped, obviously. If Lance doped, he could follow Pete Rose's path or he could follow Barry Bond's path. For those that do not know, Pete Rose admitted he bet on the game of baseball while playing and managing. On the other hand, Barry Bonds denied using steroids during testimony to a grand jury. Maybe he never doped and in that case, he should continue sticking to his unchanged story. Is Lance innocent until proven guilty? Whatever path Lance ultimately decides, it will undoubtedly be unpaved (see what I did there). Law firms have already started latching their chops at the thought of recouping millions in prize money paid to Lance. Will cancer patients and survivors lose faith in Lance? Will Lance be prosecuted for perjury? Lance is only 41-years-old. I truly believe Lance will not be remembered as a cheat. He will turn his image around and continue to inspire millions of people and will leave a positive impact on this world.

Joel is a 3L and can be reached at vsusforum@gmail.com
**STUDENT PROFILES**

**Luma Akiti - 3L**

**Hometown:** Sterling, Illinois  
**Undergrad School:** Northern Illinois University: GO HUSKIES!  
**Undergrad Major:** Political Science

Where are you from and how big is your family?  
Sterling, Illinois. Are you asking about my immediate family? I have 2 brothers and a sister. If you're asking about beyond my immediate family, then we're pushing into the 100's range.

In your opinion, what television show is the best on TV right now? What are your reasons?  
Hmmm, that's tough. Modern Family, New Girl, and Scandal (in that order). I'm sorry that I can't commit to one being THE best show on TV right now. Modern Family and New Girl are absolutely hilarious. Scandal is juicy and scandalous. Those are definitely good enough reasons.

Which professor at Valparaiso Law is your favorite? What are some of the qualities that make him/her a great professor?  
Professor Susan Stuart is my favorite professor. Why you might ask? Because she's nothing short of inspirational and brilliant.

If you could change one thing about Valparaiso School of Law, what would it be?  
No Comment.

**Jon Zimmerman - 2L**

**Hometown:** Valparaiso, IN  
**Undergrad School:** My undergraduate school was Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana—you know, the school that is far superior than Indiana University in academics, sports, and life in general.  
**Undergrad Major:** I majored in International Business at the Krannert School of Management. Kind of ironic, being that I still live in Valparaiso. In case no one has traveled near, around, or through West Lafayette—it smells awful. But there is a little place called Harry's Chocolate Shop that tends to make you forget the air stinks.

Where are you from and how big is your family?  
If you've ever watched the movie Breaking Away, I'm what you call a "Townie." I was born in Valparaiso and now I'm back. However, I must mention that I'm always traveling and lived in Italy for a period of time, so I’m not as sheltered as the average Townie.

In your opinion, what television show is the best on TV right now? What are your reasons?  
Without a doubt: Dexter, Homeland, and The Walking Dead. I always thought Zombie anything was really weird/questionable—but The Walking Dead is phenomenal.

Which professor at Valparaiso Law is your favorite? What are some of the qualities that make him/her a great professor?  
Bernard and Bodensteiner. Both of these professors are phenomenal people both inside and outside the classroom. If you haven't already had a chance—introduce yourself and get to know them.

If you could change one thing about Valparaiso School of Law, what would it be?  
The interior décor of our classrooms. This is a very important fix that the School needs to address. While a brand new parking lot that is environmentally friendly sounds great—making some (who, I don't know) sleep better at night—the walls of our classroom are IDENTICAL to the white brick used inside the Lake County Jail. As a student paying $38,000 per year in tuition—having an inviting, comfortable classroom seems to be a fair request.

What is your dream job?  
I would love to someday be a Prosecutor or Superior Court Judge.

**Melissa Velazco - 1L**

**Hometown:** Merrillville, Indiana  
**Undergrad School:** Valparaiso University  
**Undergrad Major:** I double majored in psychology and criminology

Where are you from and how big is your family?  
I have a small family, just my parents and myself.

In your opinion, what television show is the best on TV right now? What are your reasons?  
Walking Dead because it is about more than just zombies, it is about the humanity that can come out in an inhuman world.

Which professor at Valparaiso Law is your favorite? What are some of the qualities that make him/her a great professor?  
Dean Adams is my favorite professor because he explains the rules of contract law in a way that is engaging, interesting, and clear. Also, he used "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin in an exercise to demonstrate contract law.

If you could change one thing about Valparaiso School of Law, what would it be?  
I would have the cafe accept debit/credit cards.

What is your dream job?  
My dream job would be to become a Magistrate or Judge for the juvenile court system or a U.S. States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana.