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Law School Says Farewell to Faculty

BY: ANGELICA VIOLI • STAFF WRITER

The academic year of 2013-2014 involved many changes for the Valparaiso Law School. A new curriculum, renovations, and change in faculty. Several professors and other staff members have either left or will be leaving the Law School by the end of the current academic year. While some are retiring, others are moving on to new experiences.

Though Professor Bruce Berner is retiring this year, he does not plan to leave for good. “If you count the law school years and the practice years, I'm a 50L this year,” said Berner, with a wide grin spread across his face. “This is my 50th year studying law!” Berner will be remaining on at the law school as an advisor to the 3L class, while continuing work in other various ways. “I plan to write. I’ve got a variety of writing projects, and essay type writing in addition to the evidence supplementary problems,” said Berner. “I do a lot of American Legal Culture writing.” Berner, also heavily involved in the City of Valparaiso, plans to continue his work as President of the Planning Commission and his position as a member of the Park Foundation. He also plans to take some personal time to spend with his family. When asked if he had any advice for current law students, Berner had several things to advise. “The interesting thing with students is they think legal education is hard, and can’t wait to get out and practice. There’s a surprise waiting because right now they have their problems. Pretty soon they're going to have everybody’s problems,” said Berner. “Clients come to you and you find out after a while that as bad as your problems are, people have worse ones...helping those people- that’s the greatest reward you could possibly have.” Berner plans to continue teaching Evidence in another year or so. “These days [evidence] is the most interesting for me to teach. I enjoy structuring hypotheticals,” said Berner. “I’m one of the people who actually likes to write exams. I have fun writing exams.” Overall, Berner plans to continue working, but will be taking more time to enjoy life.

Professor Mark Adams will begin his new position as Dean at the University of Idaho College of Law in June. “Being Dean you have a new chance to be in a leadership position,” said Adams. “I’ve been a leader here at the law school in different capacities. I’m excited to become part of a state school, and it’s a chance to become involved with a lot of new initiatives.” While Adams did not begin in the legal profession, he later decided a legal education is what he needed. “I was a high school teacher for two years before going to law school. I was also in...Continued on page 7
CAMPUS

2013-2014 Student Awards

National Order of Scribes
Outstanding legal writing.

Janelle Thompson
Kyle Holt
Anthony Scariano
Brittany Boatman
Ryan O'Day

National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Student Award.

This individual best exemplifies the following characteristics: Contributes to the advancement of women in society; Promotes issues and concerns of women in the legal profession; Exhibits motivation, tenacity and enthusiasm; Demonstrates high academic achievement; Earns the respect of faculty, staff and colleagues.

Lakshmi Jayanthi

Corpus Juris Secundum.

Individuals providing the most significant overall contribution to the law school.

Daniel Didech
Lakshmi Jayanthi
Janelle Thompson

ALL-CLE Scholarship and Leadership Awards

These individuals best represent a combination of scholarship and leadership, the qualities embodied by the American Law Institute and the American Bar Association.

Louis Glinzak
Katlyn Rowe
Yamir Gonzalez-Velez
Daniel Didech
Janelle Thompson

Monsanto Intellectual Property Award

Commitment to and excellence in Intellectual Property law.

Briana Belligio

Charles Gromley Award

These individuals best exhibit commitment to the School through participation in organizations or other events which promote service to the law community. They are also considered by faculty and staff to be highly competent, selfless, compassionate and caring... all attributes that most represent Professor Gromley for whom the award is named.

3L Yamir Gonzalez-Velez
2L Jacobie Whitley

VU Alumni Association Distinguished Student Award

This individual has been selected by the Valparaiso University Alumni Association to receive the prestigious Distinguished Student Award, given to graduating law students who are deemed to be outstanding for their scholarship, leadership, service and character.

Lakshmi Jayanthi

10 Commandments for Lawyers Award

Given annually to the students best exemplifying civility, legal excellence and professionalism, as the Honors students in Legal Profession.

Chris Hammer
Kyle Holt
NEWS

News in Brief

PLASTIC BOTTLE BOAT AIMS FOR NORTH SEA

CZECH REPUBLIC - Two men in their twenties are building a boat out of hundreds of plastic bottles strapped to a wooden frame. Though landlocked, the nation is fixated on accessing the sea. In the 13th Century the nation’s borders extended as far as the Adriatic Sea, and the Czech people have not forgot. The two sailors plan to steer their boat up the Elbe River to the North Sea.

ANIMALS AND LANGUAGE

VENezuela - An experiment conducted by a scientist on a Venezuelan ranch revealed that parrots converse with each other. Besides recognizing animals’ calls and responses, scientists don’t know the depth of most animals’ languages. To the untrained ear, parrots’ peeps sound like an assortment of noises. However, parrots, like dolphins, have particular callings that amount to casual conversations. The realization came about after a scientist conducted a controlled experiment where he constructed parrot nests with built-in cameras and microphones to record the parrots’ activities. Data was analyzed after two months of monitoring birds. This is another small step in scientists learning to decode the language behind many different animals.

ANCIENT LANDSCAPE FOUND IN GREENLAND

GREENLAND - A study recently published in the journal Science disclosed an ancient landscape found beneath two miles of ice in Greenland. The discovery of the preserved landscape surprised researchers because of how glaciers work. Glaciers are known to grind away the terrain as they move across the Earth, scraping off vegetation, soil, and the top layer of bedrock. Therefore, researchers expected to find, at most, miniscule fragments of ancient soil. Discovering the soil under the ice sheet provides a new insight into understanding climate change. The soil was frozen for 2.7 million years and evidences that Greenland was actually green millions of years ago.

NATIONAL NEWS

HOLY BIBLE NOT LA OFFICIAL BOOK

LOUISIANA - The King James Bible will not become the official state book of Louisiana. Rep. Thomas Carmody, R-Shreveport, scrapped his proposal before it could go to a full vote in the House. Many different organizations opposed the bill. The ACLU of Louisiana argued that the bill would violate First Amendment’s Establishment Clause, which prohibits the government from making any laws “respecting an establishment of religion.” Some believe that the measure would discriminate against people not of the Christian faith. The largest sects that use the King James Bible are Anglican Christians and many other Protestant denominations. Thomas Carmody, the Republican State Rep., assures that the bill is “not about establishing an official religion,” reported the Times-Picayune.

MICHIGAN’S BAN ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION UPHELD

NATION - The Supreme Court overturned the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals decision banning racial preferences for college admissions is unconstitutional. Justice Anthony Kennedy emphasized the case was about allowing states the decision to prohibit race-con-scious admission policies, rather than about the constitutionality of affirmative action policies. In 2006, Michigan passed the ballot known as Proposal 2, which was overturned by the Sixth Circuit in 2012. Proposal 2 was approved by almost 60% of Michigan’s voters. It amended the state’s Constitution to prohibit preferential treatment in public education, government contracting, and public employment.

SRIRACHA, A TOWN NUISANCE

CALIFORNIA - On April 9, the city council of Irwindale unanimously declared the Huy Fong Foods factory a public nuisance. Huy Fong Foods is known for producing Sriracha hot sauce. The factory came under heat at the end of last autumn when Irwindale residents complained about the fumes causing eye irritation, coughing spasms, and headaches. The factory has until the beginning of July to control the odors. Residents of the Los Angeles suburb complain about the fumes from August through early November, which is known as the California jalapeno harvest. However, it has been reported that the majority of complaints primarily stem from four households. If the Huy Fong Foods factory fails to limit the odors, then city officials can make the changes themselves.

Mark is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com
Chapter 13 Trustee Provides Insight Into Bankruptcy Field

By: Debra Miller  
Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee

Not many people go to law school and say—gee, I think I want to practice bankruptcy law. In fact, in an informal poll, I found that most bankruptcy attorneys did not even take the bankruptcy course offered in their law school.

So why read the rest of this article? Because no matter what area of law you do end up going into, you will end up having to know the basics of bankruptcy law. Going to do commercial contracts and litigation? Going to practice family law? Did you know that property settlements may be discharged in a Chapter 13 bankruptcy? The large company that you represent, does bankruptcy offer a way to deal with the multi-billion dollar judgment for product liability?

The practice of bankruptcy is never boring. Whether you represent the person or company filing the bankruptcy or the creditor effected by the filing, no bankruptcy case is ever the same. In one case you may be fighting with a large mortgage servicer about whether or not they have a valid mortgage (they didn’t) in another you are trying to figure out why a person had $100k in gold bullion (can you say possible tax evasion?) and in another whether or not a personal judgment for sexual harassment is dischargeable in a Chapter 13? (Probably not.)

I clerked after law school and worked in a middle size corporate law firm. My first bankruptcy case for the firm was to litigate against 36 credit unions as to who owned the cars their customers leased thru their credit union. I then applied to be a bankruptcy trustee and was selected for the position by the Department of Justice.

I serve as the Chapter 13 bankruptcy trustee for the top 19 counties in Indiana. I have been a trustee for 14 years, served as the president of a large bankruptcy organization, and frequently speak nationally on bankruptcy.

Bankruptcy is a legal process that provides an orderly, statutory structure to manage a person or companies inability to meet their financial obligations. The goal is to give honest, but unfortunate, debtors a “fresh start” from burdensome debts.

There are different types of bankruptcies a debtor can file. The various types of bankruptcies refer to which Chapter the party files bankruptcy under. Chapter 7 is for companies and individuals who want to close their business, liquidate their assets and allow an appointed bankruptcy trustee to sell their assets and then distribute those funds to their creditors.

Chapter 13 is for individuals whose income is above the state median income and are required to pay the difference between the income and expenses to a bankruptcy Trustee for 3 to 5 years. Chapter 9 is for municipalities to file bankruptcy and restructure their debt. (example - Detroit, Michigan).

What types of positions are there in the bankruptcy field?
Bankruptcy Judgeship and federal bankruptcy law clerks. Many clerkships in bankruptcy are actually permanent clerkships instead of the rotating two years normally associated with federal courts.

What skills must a bankruptcy attorney have?
You have to be able to litigate and be comfortable in court. While bankruptcy is a federal court that follows civil procedure, you are regularly in court for motions, hearings and miscellaneous hearings. I regularly am in court for about 150 to 200 hearings a month. For a commercial Chapter 11, there are substantially more hearings at the beginning of the bankruptcy with the frequency of hearings going down as the bankruptcy progresses. In commercial cases, the hearings might last for 3 to 4 hours each where a consumer bankruptcy hearing might be 5 minutes.

You have to be able to do math. Whether practicing consumer or commercial bankruptcy law, you have to be able to work with your client to come up with a budget and explain the budget to the bankruptcy court or trustee.

You must be able to multi task and communicate with your client. Discussing strategies, reviewing documents and timely preparing court pleadings are a must. Things move fast in a bankruptcy case- you have to keep up with the speed or will find you have missed deadlines and may have foreclosed your client obtaining funds or having a say in the outcome of a bankruptcy case.

If I am interested in going into bankruptcy- what law school classes should I be taking?

Other than the basic core classes, the following classes would help you in bankruptcy practice: Secured Transactions (Article 9 of the UCC), Bankruptcy, Article 3 and 4 of the UCC usually called Commercial Transactions, Trial Advocacy, Evidence and contracts. During the summer, if you can clerk for a bankruptcy judge, or obtain an internship with the United States Trustee’s Office, both will greatly assist you in obtaining a position immediately after law school.

Questions to Trustee Miller can be sent to vuslforum@gmail.com
Telman To Step Down As Dean

BY: JEREMY TELMAN • ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

I will be stepping down as Associate Dean for Faculty Development this summer, so I would like to use this space for some public reflection on the experience. For those of you who don’t know what an Associate Dean for Faculty Development does, let me quickly summarize it. Most of what I did as Associate Dean is stuff that students would not necessarily notice, as it has to do with supporting faculty members in their teaching and research. But the Associate Dean also works with faculty members and staff to help coordinate our events and make certain that those events, ranging from conferences and endowed lectures, to faculty works-in-progress and workshops, run smoothly.

There were many things that I enjoyed about serving as Associate Dean, but by far the most rewarding part of the job was working with the Law School’s dedicated, hard-working and highly effective staff. Undoubtedly, these are challenging times for the legal profession and the legal academy, but our students have good reason to feel confident about their abilities to succeed in the marketplace because there is an institution filled of people dedicated to their success.

As a faculty member, one’s focus in usually on one’s teaching and one’s research, and that’s as it should be, but as a result faculty members often do not have a clear idea of what Law School staff members do. As Associate Dean, I worked closely with our administrative support staff, with the Career Planning Center, with Admissions, with Finance, with Marketing, with Academic Success and Student Services, with the Registrar and even a little bit with the library staff. In every case, I found that the people I worked with had a very high level commitment to the Law School and its students, knew their jobs and their responsibilities, and quickly accomplished what needed to be done.

There is a common misconception that faculty members with tenure do not work hard. This misconception, like many prejudices, is immune to contrary empirical evidence (or which there is plenty) because everybody has their favorite anecdote supposedly evidencing the evils of the tenure system. As Associate Dean, I know that our faculty members work long hours, and we regularly communicate by phone and e-mail on evenings and weekends in addition to our daily interactions in Wesemann and Heritage Hall. It is true that faculty members have flexible schedules and are not present in the Law School 9-5, but they respond to e-mails at 5 AM and at 10 PM on a Saturday night. This is what is remarkable about our staff. Their jobs require them to keep regular hours at work, but they also work hard for the Law School on evenings and even on weekends as needed.

Because my memory is porous, I often send reminders to staff on evenings or weekends because if I

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N.E. Reporter Third Released

BY: STEVEN PROBST • ASSOCIATE DEAN

While you’ve been studying, attending class, dealing with snow days, and going about your day-to-day life as law students this semester, a clock has been ticking in the library. The end of an era is approaching. Not to be overly dramatic, but truly, a milestone in legal research looms on the horizon. Have you sensed it? Do you know what it is? How about a hint: the sound of this ticking clock can be heard not just in our library, but in all law libraries in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, New York, and Massachusetts (if not nationwide). Hopefully your excellent instruction in legal research led you to conclude, based on that list of states, this development must involve West’s North Eastern Reporter. If so, you’re correct.

On February 5th of this year, rather than publishing the 1000th volume of the North Eastern Reporter, Second Series, Thompson Reuters released the first advance sheet of the North Eastern Reporter, Third Series. The first hardcover volume will arrive in our library sometime next month.

Although it helps, you needn’t be a law librarian to appreciate the magnitude of this development. The first volume of the North Eastern Reporter, Second Series was published in January 1936. To put that into perspective, perhaps a little reminder of how long ago that was is in order.

Among many other noteworthy events that year the first parking meter was invented, Gone with the Wind, by Margaret Mitchell was published, and the 8 hour workday became law (with the passage of the Walsh-Healy Public Contracts Act, just to bring this all back around to legal research). In other words, the beginning of a new series of the North Eastern Reporter is something that does not happen every day. The question is, will it ever happen again?

The first series of the North Eastern Reporter began publication in 1885 and ran for 51 years. During that time, only 198 volumes were published before the second series succeeded it (why only 198 volumes instead of 999 seems to be a mystery). By the end of the first series, there were only two volumes of the North Eastern Reporter being published per year. By contrast, the North Eastern Reporter, Second Series spanned 78 years (just 27 years longer), but consisted of 999 volumes. These volumes are currently being published at a rate of nineteen per year, illustrating the increase of activity on court dockets over

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Letters to the Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to express? Do you agree or disagree with an article? Voice your opinion by writing a letter to the editors.

LETTERS POLICY

The FORUM reserves the right to edit any contributions and/or reject them without notification. Letters must be limited to 400 words and columns to either 400 or 800 words.

Written contributions must be typed and include the author's contact information; law students must include their year in school.

Unsigned letters will not be printed. When referring to specific articles, please include the date and title.

Contributions can be sent to: The FORUM, 656 S. Greenwich Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383; via e-mail at vuslforum@gmail.com; or in hard copy to The FORUM's mailbox located in the SBA office.

vuslforum@gmail.com

Don't send off the e-mail when the thought occurs to me, I will lose track of it. To my surprise, I often get immediate responses from staff. I tell them that when I write to them on a Sunday, I am not asking them to work on a Sunday. I just want to make sure they have my message when they get to work on Monday. But staff members at the Law School believe that attending to work e-mails on evenings and weekends is "just part of the job."

I am especially impressed with the Law School's supervisory staff. We often place them between the rock of student needs and the hard place of maintaining a humane working environment. We always strive at the Law School to put our students first in everything we do, but sometimes faculty members

"The people I worked with had a very high level of commitment to the Law School and its students..." working environment. I now look forward to returning to focusing on teaching, and I am hoping that my work with students - especially in the new Public International Law Representation course - will take my scholarly work in new, productive directions. I am grateful to those with whom I have worked as Associate Dean for Faculty Development. Your hard work helped erase my many blunders and made us all look good.

Professor Telman can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

This online availability also presents another question which may prove to be the end of the N.E.4th citation before it ever appears: in an online environment, why are we still presupposing that a single vendor's print product should be the standard for citation?

In an online environment, doesn't it make more sense to simply provide the names of the parties, date of decision, the deciding court, and some unique identifying number? This movement toward universal citation is why a few jurisdictions like North Dakota have developed vendor-neutral citation rules for their cases (for more information on vendor-neutral citation and the early work on this topic done by law librarians see http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Advocacy/access/citation or Universal Citation

Be reasonably prudent.

Read The FORUM

DEAN/LIBRARY

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...Dean continued from page 5

Dean Probst can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

Guide by AALL located in Law Reference at KF245.U58 2014

Between the cost of reporters, the rate at which many if not most practitioners are accessing them exclusively online, and the move toward vendor-neutral citation, the print reporter could become a thing of the past during the span of your careers, or at least before the appearance of N.E.4th. This is even more reason for you to join the librarians in heralding the arrival of the first volume of N.E.3d; not only has it been a long time since this has happened - it may never happen again.
private practice [for four years] but missed the teaching aspect, so I decided to return to teaching,” said Adams. “I taught at IU Bloomington for two years before coming here.” His main courses of interest are Contracts and Labor Law. “They are my main areas of interest but they’re also fun. Labor law, you get students who are typically really interested in labor law, so it’s a fun class to teach.” When asked what one of his favorite memories from the Law School, Adams took a moment to reflect. “My favorite moments are always at commencement. You see families who are so thrilled and you’ve seen thesis student for three years but you don’t know the backstory for a lot of students,” said Adams. “They may be the first to go to law school, or even to go to college.”

Adams will be leaving after twenty years of teaching at the Law School. “I’m looking forward to it. It’s an exciting change,” said Adams before smiling. “Thanks for twenty years of fun. I’ve enjoyed every day of it. I’ve enjoyed coming to school. I don’t call it work.”

Professor Zachary Calo does not plan to stop teaching anytime soon. He has not only been teaching here at Valparaiso Law School, at other schools at the same time, and will continue to do so. “I’ve been teaching at DePaul for three years now and sometimes fill in for other courses,” said Calo. “I was a visiting professor at Notre Dame last academic year.” Calo will be an adjunct at the University of Notre Dame Law School this fall 2014 on Catholic Social Thought in the Law.

Calo has taught a wide variety of courses in his seven years here at the law school after joining in the fall of 2007. Previously, he had practiced for two years at a banking and commercial law firm in Washington D.C. “Since I got here I’ve taught every year Property law to 1Ls and Secure Transactions as an upper level course... and then I’ve offered a whole slew of seminars,” said Calo. One interesting course being solely on tor-

ture. They’re all different and enjoyable in their own ways. I enjoy the seminars- the law and religion seminars, because that’s the area I tend to write in...but I enjoy teaching the 1L classes,” said Calo. “They all have particular joys.”

Calo also noted his love for travel, stating that he will be teaching law in South Korea in 2015. “I’m going to do a course on law and religion at a law school in South Korea... but I’m looking to transition back to Washington,” said Calo. Calo has previously taught in China, South America, and Europe. While leaving one school to move on to several others, Calo took a moment to think about his experience at Valparaiso Law School. “Having been around a lot of different law schools, there’s a collegiality here that I think is pretty distinct both among the faculty, and among the faculty and the students that sustains itself pretty well,” said Calo. “Day to day life here is a good thing...it’s an exciting time to be here in law school and to be a law student.”

Calo’s last remarks for the current law students were simple: “Best of luck and go forth boldly.”

The law school has just always been supportive in what I was writing and wanted I wanted to teach... it’s just been a terribly welcoming and supportive environment all the way through,”

“Richard Stith might be retiring, but he, like Professor Berner, is not going far. “I’m not going away; I’m going to be a continuing thing,” said Stith, who began to laugh. “The way I see it, people always ask, ‘you’re retiring what are you going to do now?’ The way I see it, when you’re a teacher, you retire every summer! So I’m going to do what I do every summer and that’s reading and writing.”

Stith, who will be a Senior Research Scholar, will be spending more time doing research along with his writing. “I would love to have more time to talk to people and participate in law school and university activities, plus get a lot of articles done that I’ve had to postpone for teaching,” said Stith. “I’m getting a new office... I really hope to have more time for the things I wish I could do like having lunch with students down in the café [and] participating in different organizations.” Stith enjoys being involved with the Law School and its students, but has also appreciated the time he has been allowed to travel. “I’ve taught a lot of places,” said Stith. “I’ve taught in Spain, Chile, Mexico, and Ukraine, China, India, always for at least a semester sometimes a year. And the law school has just always been really flexible and allowed me to do that.”

Stith looks forward to having more time to relax and interact with students. “When we were getting ready to catch an airplane, they [my kids would] say, ‘watch out, Pie (dad) is in an airport mood,’” said Stith. “That meant I was going to be gruff and I was going to be rushed and commanding. By having a teaching schedule, I really detect that kind of in my whole life up until now, I’ve been in an airport mood,” said Stith, who began to laugh. “I’m hoping once I’m retired that I will completely get out of the airport mood and just be there for everybody and anybody who wants to talk without pressure of time.”

Stith explained he always wanted to be a professor especially once he began college, but that he also considered law. “My dad had wanted to be lawyer...[and] he always dreamed of being a lawyer and I was the oldest child, so I always felt I should be a lawyer,” said Stith. “But then I thought of this great idea- I thought, ‘Hey I could be a law professor! I could be both at the same time! I can be what my dad wants and what I want.'”

“The law school has just always been supportive in what I was writing and wanted I wanted to teach... it’s just been a terribly welcoming and supportive environment all the way through,”

Angelica is a 1L and can be reached at vusforum@gmail.com
A perfect storm has engulfed legal education and the legal job market: more graduates than entry-level openings, tuition too high for starting salaries, and anemic economic recovery. The reaction to this storm was an immediate and sharp decline in law school applicants, setting off a chain reaction that affected law schools from Yale to Cooley.

Law schools have a variety of inputs and outputs. Inputs are the students and resources. Outputs are the outcomes that the students have.

A student's undergraduate GPA (UGPA), LSAT, and law school class rank can be used as a rough predictor to class rank and odds of passing the bar. We can see this in effect throughout the country: law schools with higher UGPA and LSAT numbers for their classes tend to have the highest bar passage rates. On an individual basis, having a higher class rank correlates to first-time bar passage. Valpo Law school's bar passage rates have been lower than the state average, but bar passage required (FTLTBP) jobs at the reporting period will find such employment at a later date, but because longer-term reporting on graduates is not done, the number that do are unknown.

These numbers are important because they reflect the reputation and reach that a VU Law degree has in the current legal job market. The weak legal market is national in nature, affecting even law schools such as Harvard. This national issue, however, has local implications. When big law firms began cutting the size of their incoming classes a few years ago, it created a chain reaction where graduates from more reputable law schools began applying for jobs that used to be filled by graduates from less reputable law schools. For example, VU Law graduates are now competing more against graduates from Notre Dame than in the past.

If lower credentialed classes at VU Law translate into lower bar passage rates and school reputation, the employment prospects of all VU Law graduates will continue to deteriorate. The law students want more employers recruiting on campus and more employers hiring VU Law grads. Most students need to take out student loans to pay for living expenses and tuition, and are out of the full-time workforce between two-and-a-half and three years. Unfortunately, a report from New America, a nonpartisan think tank, found that the median law graduates in 2012 owed approximately $140,000 in total student loans, an increase of $50,000 from those who graduated in 2008. New students are demanding tuition discounts at higher rates than before: 46% of VU 1L's entered with a scholarship, compared with 22% of 3Ls. The higher number of scholarships are important because they decrease the revenue of the law school.

Law schools and graduates are between a rock, a hard place, and Godzilla. Within the national environment is VU Law's situation. The path that the faculty and administration have chosen will have far-reaching consequences to VU Law graduates, current students, and future students.

Other law schools have reacted in ways that VU Law should consider, such as cutting tuition between fifteen and fifty percent, cutting enrollment, and abolishing tuition discounting practices. Lower tuition and less discounting means less student debt and more fairness. The closer the graduating class size is to VU Law's placement ceiling, the higher percent of said graduating class will obtain the highly valued FTLTBP jobs, and the happier alumni will be.

As a soon-to-be VU Law graduate, I am strongly affected by the success or failure of this institution. I want VU Law to be successful. I think the new incentives for bar passage and bar prep classes are excellent. I think most faculty are good and care for the success of their students.

While VU Law has a warming faculty and created a new bar passage program, the open-door admissions policy is worrisome. The new focus on "practice ready" graduates is not going to matter if the number of VU Law graduates is greater than the job placement ceiling of the school. Even if enrollment shrinks, starting salaries will not be enough to service student loans without substantial cuts in tuition.

Steven is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com
Student’s Reflection on the New Orleans Pro Bono Trip

BY: OSMAN MIRZA • STAFF WRITER

In the first week of March, while most students prepare to embark on their Spring Break, a select group of Valparaiso criminal procedure students travel to New Orleans to participate in Valparaiso School of Law’s Pro Bono Program (“the Program”) hosted by Professor Derrick Carter. Our task is to assist the Orleans Public Defenders (“OPD”) office as they deal with a mountain of criminal cases. OPD desperately lacks proper funding from the Mayor and City Council to properly handle their volume. As a result, public defenders can be left juggling responsibilities stemming from over a hundred active cases.

OPD is located across the street and one block down from the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court. The courthouse itself contains a number of courtrooms and offices that are typical of any other court in the nation. However, social and political conditions in New Orleans generates a flood of criminal proceedings and the courthouse is situated next to a host of dilapidated jails and holding facilities termed “tents”.

New Orleans holds the most number of prisoners, per capita, nationwide. Many of the accused in Orleans Parish face a dire situation since they can be held in jail on felony charges for up to 60 days before a preliminary hearing. Thousands of inmates are locked up unnecessarily in Orleans Parish on baseless felonies, such as failing to return their rental cars for prolonged periods or an inability to pay court costs. Although there is no shortage of serious cases concerning violent offenders, many people who pose little or no public safety risk are continuously arrested for minor offenses.

Students are provided with express authorization as law clerks to visit clients on behalf of OPD attorneys and are granted access at all detention facilities in Orleans Parish. I visited my assigned attorney, Amanda’s client in Orleans Parish Prison (“OPP”) to deliver news on his pending court date and communicate his concerns to her. OPP is the Court system’s most overrun and notorious jail. Conditions at OPP were brought into federal oversight due to hundreds of assaults, rape, poor healthcare, absence of staff, smuggling of illegal contraband and inmate deaths.

I walked through a metal detector at the entrance and placed a request to speak with the client. After waiting for over an hour, I met him in a small enclosure with a caged divider through which we began to speak about the details of his case. After delivering Amanda’s message, we discussed her recommendation for a plea and I spent time listening to his concerns. I was surprised to see that he conducted his own research and posed pertinent questions supported by some authority. The engagement left me with an impression of a capable person despite the unfortunate circumstances that placed him in OPP.

At the conclusion of my 2013 internship, the client opted for trial despite Amanda’s recommendation to take a six-year plea deal. Enhancement of sentences for defendants with prior felonies is extreme in Orleans Parish and he faced 35 years in The Louisiana State Penitentiary if convicted.

This year I returned to New Orleans as an upperclassman to assist Professor Carter and lead a new group of criminal procedure students in unfamiliar territory. Another interest of mine was to foster greater collaboration with Amanda’s office. Amanda was promoted in the last year to Chief of OPD Conflicts Division. I maintained correspondence with Amanda well before returning to New Orleans in order to hit the ground running. As a result, I was able to expand the Valparaiso program to the Conflict Division for the first time.

As a 2014 participant, I assisted the defense of a 29-year-old black male accused of first-degree murder. The accused was sentenced to Angola two years earlier for cocaine possession and armed robbery. He was rebooked on murder charges for a 2011 killing where a suspect gunned down a victim in daylight with an AK-47 assault rifle. A single witness could only describe a “tall” and “bearded” black man and pointed to Amanda’s client in a lineup.

We began a three-hour drive heading north from New Orleans into serene plantation territory near the Mississippi State line. I was amazed to see two things when we arrived at the Angola entrance. A banner, emblazoned with Coca-Cola trademarks, which read “ANGOLA PRISON RODEO...www.angolarodeo.com” was hanging directly above the entranceway and a prison museum was directly adjacent to parking lot and look-out tower.

I took a tour of the museum before checking through security clearance. It displayed various “Angola” labled tourist products in its foyer and continued with a series of exhibits depicting maps, portraits of past wardens, a short movie enclosure, contraband seized from inmates, photography of famous Angola events, an actual cell, propaganda demonstrating the modernization of facilities, prisoner woodcrafts, and an encased model of the Prison Rodeo. Since 1965, the Penitentiary hosts the Angola Prison Rodeo...

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OPINION

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and Arts and Crafts festival on one weekend every April and October. The event, accommodated with a 10,000-person stadium, draws revenue from thousands of visitors.

The last exhibit in the prison museum is Louisiana's retired electric chair. The electric chair was the method of execution in the State of Louisiana from 1941 to 1991. Inmates on death row nicknamed the chair "Gruesome Gertie." From August 6, 1941 to June 9, 1957 the electric chair was transported to the parish where the crime was committed. After 1957, the State was then responsible for administering the death penalty and those executions were performed at Angola. In 1967, the federal courts suspended all executions pending a final decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1972, the Court struck down all capital punishment laws and decided it was unconstitutional. All individuals awaiting the death penalty at that time were resentenced to life imprisonment. Capital punishment was reinstated in Louisiana in 1979 but was last used for the execution of Andrew Lee Jones on July 22, 1991 until the introduction of lethal injection. Angola maintains death row for State executions. Prisoners on death row are confined to their cells for 23 hours per day.

Angola exists as a quasi-developed community. After clearing security, we were chaperoned by a vehicle to the cellblock holding Amanda's client. We drove past numerous sites including guesthouses, a cemetery, a church, a fire station, farms, an airstrip, and other unmarked buildings.

I was struck by how intelligible the client was in his responses to our questions. He spoke clearly and effectively, again leaving the impression of a person having the capacity to succeed if only placed within circumstances that nurtured the development of skills. Sadly however, he was an inmate facing a murder charge emerging from a culture that promotes violence, fear, strife, hunger, anxiety and death. When we asked him about the deceased having a "beef" with the other suspect, he responded that no one knew was "beef-free."

We concluded the interview having used the entire hour. The client extended his thanks to us for our help in working to further his defense. By his demeanor I could only conclude that he was reserved to accept the realities of his predicament. It is my impression that Amanda's client, like so many others accused in New Orleans, live complacently with threat imprisonment within a society that is seemingly engineered to farm hard labor from the disenfranchised.

The New Orleans Pro Bono Program is a valuable resource for any student interested in adding context to their criminal procedure studies. The program provides ample opportunity for a diligent student to be exposed to the harsh realities of criminal defense where the extremes of crime and punishment clash with cultural disparity. Most law students having steered clear of crime in their own lives can learn to empathize with future clients who may face life altering consequences of an arrest.

New Orleans' criminal justice system is unique to the nation in that it operates under the Napoleonic Civil Code. The civil code system manifests an atmosphere magnified by political and social contentions. For students who aren't sure whether to pursue a career in criminal law, the program may provide important insights into administrative, political and public interests. For example, one could argue that New Orleans should build infrastructure to properly prosecute the accused but others intimately aware of the issue instead advocate for recreational, educational, and social measures aimed at empowering future generations to create a sustainable and thriving community.

OPD is incredibly grateful to have Valparaiso students assist their office. In both years of my participation, they have graciously hosted and integrated us into their environment. The attorneys involve students in incredibly intimate matters that affect the lives of their clients. Based on my experiences, I highly endorse this program for future law students. I also recommend that students who've participated as underclassmen continue to engage OPD as leaders to assist student integration, foster professional relationships and represent Valparaiso School of Law as an institution committed to public service.

Osman is a 3L and can be reached at vulpoforum@gmail.com
Student Profiles

Daniel Didisch

Hometown: Buffalo Grove, IL
Undergraduate School: Roosevelt University
Undergraduate Major: American History

What are your plans for the summer?
Getting married in Disney World, studying for the Illinois bar exam, and watching my horses race. One of my favorite things to do is to watch the horses race at Arlington Park, so hopefully I will find some time to take a break from studying to enjoy the races.

What is the first thing you’re doing after finals are over?
Taking a nap. It has been a busy year! Between leading the Student Bar Association, preparing for moot court competitions, traveling to Chicago for my internship and doing my classwork, I have not gotten nearly as much sleep as I would like to.

If there is one thing you could change about Valpo Law School, what would it be?
I would upgrade some of the facilities, but if the money isn’t available then integrate with Valpo undergrad and utilize some of their facilities and other resources.

If you were the new dean for a day, what would your first act be?
Lower tuition.

What new movies are you looking forward to seeing?
Jersey Boys, Guardians of the Galaxy, and I’m hoping that Star Wars Episode VII will not be ruined by Disney after George Lucas ruined the prequels and the special releases...

If you could have any job in the world, what would it be?
Professional billionaire playboy (ala running Stark Industries), or a professional singer.

What advice would you give to an incoming 1L?
Don’t worry yourself too much. Take time to relax and do your thing, otherwise you could work yourself into the ground.
A Name Change For Professionalism Series

BY: STEVEN PROBST • ASSOCIATE DEAN

Starting next fall, you’ll notice that a program you’re familiar with will be advertised with a new name. That’s because in February, the faculty voted unanimously to name the professionalism series The Louis F. Bartelt, Jr. Professionalism Series. This decision was made in order to honor longtime faculty member and dean Louis F. Bartelt, Jr.

Dean Bartelt graduated from Valparaiso University Law School in 1947 and served on its faculty from 1948 until 1986, teaching Torts, Criminal Law and Administrative Law to decades of Valparaiso Law students (including current faculty members such as Professors Berner, Levinson, Whitton, Cichowski, and Morrison). He served as Dean from 1964 until 1969, and as Acting Dean from 1971 – 1972.

In 1981, Dean Bartelt was awarded the Law School’s first endowed chair, the Louis and Anna Seegers Chair of Law. His teaching skill was also recognized by the Valparaiso University Alumni Association, who made him the 1985-86 recipient of its Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dean Bartelt was a model of dignity and integrity to generations of law students and had the highest expectations of them, both inside and outside the classroom. We are very pleased to have an opportunity such as this to recognize Dean Bartelt’s long service and commitment to the Law School.

Dean Probst can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

Circulation Desk Profiles

Geoff Lorenz

George Clauser

George Clauser & Geoff Lorenz at Inman’s Fun & Party Center

What was the most rewarding experience from working at the circulation desk? George: obviously how sweet Debbie is. She’s the true heart of the library. We are merely the wildly handsome lifeblood that pumps through the circ. desk’s sweet, sweet heart (Debbie); Geoff: Yes, I agree. Debbie is the true heart and soul of the library. We just try and shed a bit of cheer to those who walk through the library doors. The rewarding experience is getting to work with Debbie.

What is your favorite book in the Valpo Law library? Both: Neither of us “legally know” how to read...that being said, books on tape, shawshank redemption, and documentaries such as Forrest Gump and Independence Day.

Did you ever take anything from the library’s lost and found? George: We have a lost and found?; Geoff: Of course. But then I lost it.

What is the last song you listened to? George: Purple Rain; Geoff: George singing Purple Rain.

What is your favorite library smell? Both: Finals Musk is perfect. Used to be the spring weather, but we’ve forgotten what that smells like.

What is the first thing you think of when you wake up in the morning? George: Is popcorn shrimp popcorn, or shrimp?; Geoff: How many times can I hit “snooze” and still make it to work/class on time?

Do you dunk fries in your frosty? George: We dunk all kinds of stuff in frostys. We are barely allowed in Wendy’s anymore because of frostys.; Geoff: I actually prefer to dunk my frosty in my fries. Soooo much tastier.