NETWORKING RESOLUTIONS

Start the new year off right with these tips and land the job you’ve dreamed about

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Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. Scholarship

The Massachusetts Bar Association's "Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. Scholarship" awards a $10,000 scholarship to a third-year law student currently attending a Massachusetts law school who is committed to providing legal assistance to underrepresented individuals and communities in Massachusetts upon graduating. Awardees will be given leadership opportunities in the MBA.

Candidates applying for this scholarship must meet the qualities that the MBA values and finds essential in those who will become practicing attorneys. In particular, applicants must:

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2: Have a proven record of hard work and academic accomplishment, and
3: Have demonstrated integrity and honesty.

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Networking leads to and reinforces relationships — at least it can when it is done effectively. Building referral networks takes time and requires a consistent presence. Consider these techniques to make the most of your networking time. By Douglas S. Brown, JD

1) Create blocks of time. Networking is one of those "important but not urgent" activities that can get pushed to the back burner by the day-to-day pressures of life. Create structure by scheduling appointments for your networking and relationship building every week. Block five kinds of activities: deciding where to network, preparing, meeting, following-up, and keeping in touch. Start by scheduling a couple of hours a week on the following-up and keeping in touch activities. This will give you a firm foundation and help you build momentum.

2) Build a schedule. Attend gatherings that make sense for your intended area of practice and your life. Focus on areas where you can find connections to help you raise your profile. Bar associations are necessary, but not sufficient. Find other community and interest groups — including those that are not obviously business-related. I know many attorneys who've received great referrals from not-for-profit boards, community activities, or parents from their children's activities. Schedule one group gathering and a one-on-one session each week. The one-on-one could be with a new acquaintance, or someone you haven't seen in a while. The key is to get into this routine. Don't overextend yourself, because it will be difficult to maintain the presence necessary to build solid relationships. Evaluate your progress quarterly and make changes to improve results.

3) Prepare effectively. Start by learning all you can about the person you are meeting or the group whose event you are attending. Even a half-hour of focused thinking and preparation time will improve networking effectiveness. Approach the meeting with a giver’s mindset — and be prepared to offer something that would help him or her in their business or with something you have in common. LinkedIn is a great source of information. If you don’t know what would help them, come prepared with some good questions to help you learn more. Know what you would like to accomplish in the meeting. Are you simply trying to get to know the person better as part of a long-term relationship, or is there something specific he can help you with?

4) Listen and ask great questions. If you want to be interesting to someone, you need to be interested in them. The person you are talking to is typically a hundred-times more interested in themselves than they are in you. Ask questions that they will enjoy answering. Start with something other than, "What type of law do you practice?" I like asking people what they do for fun, or where they went on their last vacation. Asking questions not only builds rapport, but it gives you information that provides the basis for future conversations and moves the relationship forward. When engaged in conversation, remember to make eye contact, practice active listening, and don’t become distracted by your phone or who you need to talk to next. Resist the temptation to talk about yourself in detail.

5) Follow UP! Have a simple and repeatable system for following up on meetings and conversations. Decide on specific actions. Make notes right away — before you drive home — on what you talked about and pick one follow up action (beyond the “thank you” e-mail). Calendar the follow up action. Be creative in following up and make it personal. Send an article of interest, or a connection to share. It might be as simple as a greeting card thanking them for their time. Supplement in-person meetings with social media — especially interest groups on site such as LinkedIn where you can post and answer questions. Create your own "Top 40" list of people you ought to stay in touch with. As part of your weekly planning, decide which three to five of the 40 you want to reach out to that week. Keep a weekly call list with you. Use it when you have small blocks of downtime to simply make a call or send a note to say hello. Even if you feel like it has been “too long,” take the initiative — you never know where it may lead.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Attorney Douglas S. Brown has invested the last 20 years of his career helping people and organizations become more effective. He is currently the Executive Director of the Connecticut Bar Association and is also a coach, consultant, educator, and speaker with extensive experience in the legal industry, law practice management, and legal career development. Doug is a frequent CLE presenter and his business and career advice has been featured in publications such as The Hartford Business Journal, The Chicago Tribune, Inc. Magazine, Wired.com and Fox Business.

CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION UPCOMING EVENTS

SFP160120 Rediscovering Ediscovery: How to Get and Use it Under the Revised Rules
1/20/2016
Location: New Haven, Connecticut  Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

EDU160126 The Healthy Lawyer: Get on Track: Nutrition for Success
1/26/2016
Location: New Britain, Connecticut  Time: 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

EDU160127 Connecticut Casemaker: A Complete Guide
1/27/2016
Time: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Talia K. Gee
Class of 2010
Central West Justice Center
Represents employees in matters involving unemployment, discrimination, wage and hour violations.

What was the most difficult aspect in school and how did you overcome that obstacle/experience?
The most difficult aspect in law school was balancing the volume of work with participating in extracurricular activities and my home life. Combining all of this with also pursuing my career aspirations made for a very stressful time. As a result my grades, personal life, and career suffered. I overcame these obstacles by remaining organized and being honest with myself about my priorities. Once I realized I was not able to do everything I began to prioritize what I would be able to do and completed those tasks. I made it a priority to be the best at what I could do. That made all of the difference. When I made that change things improved in every area.

Are there any specific programs, committees, clubs that you suggest current students to join? Either for classes, studying, fun, networking etc.
I suggest current students join two programs: one in school and one outside of school. Joining a program in school will allow you to connect with your peers and be a part of the law school community. This will pay off at a later time when these classmates you are in a group with become your friends, coworkers, and study partners during bar prep. I also suggest students join one program outside of the law school such as a local bar association like the Hampden County Bar Association. The first reason is that your membership and participation in events will likely be free. The second reason is membership in these organizations will get your face out in the community and will allow you to develop relationships with potential employers and mentors. I also never suggest joining an organization if you don’t plan to ever attend events, participate in listservs or discussions, or serve in some leadership capacity.

How did you network or if you didn’t how do you wish you had? How can students benefit from meeting other attorneys and others within the legal profession?
In law school I networked by obtaining leadership roles in the organizations I was involved with such as the Black Lawyers Association. This allowed me to get to know a lot of people in other organizations. I also made it a point to attend events held by other organizations. I attended a few events held by local lawyer organizations. I wish I had attended more.

For law school students, meeting attorneys, court clerks, and others in the legal field is invaluable. It is your introduction to those people. That introduction can lead to a mentorship relationship, a potential employment opportunity, or some other relationship. You would be surprised how far some people are willing to go to help a law student. Membership in organizations and attendance at events will expose you to those people. When you’re a first year associate sent to the courthouse to file something with little direction, that clerk that you met at the cocktail party last year may be willing to go the extra mile to help you because she remembers you from the networking event you attended last month. This exact scenario happened to me.

I would also recommend getting involved with a hybrid organization like the Western New England University School of Law Alumni Board of Directors. This organization will allow students to get involved with the university and be exposed to alumni and the administration.

What is something you did or advice you were given that has helped you now?
The best advice I was given in law school was to make sure I took care of myself. This meant make sure I had down time for myself to relax and relieve stress. The gym became my outlet for this. Today the gym remains my outlet for stress.

The Need for Lawyers is Increasing

by RABIA HAMID
LEX BREVIS Staff Writer

Many people say that the job prospects for law school graduates are bleak. While it may be hard to get a job as a criminal defense attorney right out of law school, fields such as health care law and intellectual property law are expected to be areas of growth, in need of lawyers.

A lot of the nation’s largest law firms have thriving health law practices that will continue to grow as the demand increases. This area of practice includes healthcare lawyers who are employed by insurance, biotech and pharmaceutical companies. Health care law, a subset of health law practice, is a growing field, and includes everything from elder care and embryonic stem cell research to Medicaid fraud and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Other growing areas of practice include patent law and family law. Divorce is at an all-time high—51% in 2012 as reported by the Pew Research Center. Moreover, labor and employment law, which includes labor relations, collective bargaining, and wage and hour actions, is also expanding. Some states are moving towards legalizing internet gambling; thus, gaming law is becoming an expanding practice area as well.

So you have to ask yourself, “How will I increase both my substantive knowledge and practical experience so that I will be better suited for the job market that exists when I graduate?”

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
ALUMNI PROFILE CONTINUED

Was there a class or area of law you studied that has proven particularly helpful now?
Legal research and writing proved to be particularly helpful. I have found that no matter what job I am in, I will always need to know how to find the law efficiently, write effectively, and orally communicate my findings sufficiently. Another class that has been extremely helpful has been civil procedure. Since I am a litigator in several different courts, I often times have to remember different rules. Remembering lessons from civil procedure class during my 1L year has been the greatest tool in my practice. The lessons I learned in this class have almost always been a part of the rules I needed to follow for the respective tribunal.

What class(es) if you recall, helped you the most on the Bar exam and what states’ Bars did you sit for? And do you have any advice for those about to take the Bar?
If I had to give advice to any law students about taking the bar it would be to have a balance. Don’t stress yourself out too much trying to complete every assignment, read every piece of bar preparation material, or attempting to take every practice examination. Have a balance that involves intense studying for 3-4 hours at a time followed by a break for an hour or two to let your brain rest. Find an outlet that will allow you to get your mind off of studying. For me, that outlet was the gym. Find your respective outlet and use it every day you study. You will need it.

Also, don’t try to keep up with everyone else who says they have completed every assignment. They probably have not. March to the beat of your own drum. Those people won’t be taking the bar exam for you. If you are too stressed out from studying on the day of the examination, you will not perform will. Trust me. This happened to me and caused me to fail the bar exams for Massachusetts and New York the first time I took them in July 2010. I took these same exams a second time in February 2011, making sure I relaxed and followed the above advice during studying, and I passed with flying colors the second time. I took the Connecticut bar exam in July 2012 and passed. I only sat for the local day for Connecticut, as I was able to transfer my MBE score from the bar exam I took in New York in February 2011.

Classes that will help you on the bar exam are bar preparation courses, constitutional law, criminal law and procedure, and evidence. Most of the bar examination is about thinking like a lawyer. The exams test how you think in the context of the various subject matters. Courses that will challenge you to think like a lawyer, such as Moot Court, will also be very helpful.

What was your favorite part of attending Western New England University School of Law?
I loved how welcoming the WNE community was when I attended. The professors seemed to have a vested interest in making sure you were able to do all that you wanted to do with your career. I appreciated that.

How did the skills you learned in law school transition into the legal profession?
I would not have been able to transition into the legal profession without the skills I learned during law school. Law school doesn’t teach you how to be a lawyer. Law school teaches you how to think like a lawyer. This is crucial because when you become a lawyer you will often rely on what you learned in law school as a base to learn more in your given area. Without a solid foundation such as the education I received from WNE I would not have been able to make the transition to being a lawyer.

What surprised you most about Practicing?
I was nervous about practicing law because I felt that everyone else in the room would likely know the answer to whatever question I had. The more I practice the more I learn no one else knows the answer either.

What have you enjoyed most in being an attorney?
The most rewarding thing about being an attorney is the personal challenge. I get to push myself every day to become better, smarter, and stronger. I get to help people while learning something new. It is very rewarding. I also love that I get to meet so many people from different walks of life.

A lawyer is necessary during the best of times, like the purchase of a new home, and during the worst of times, ...

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The premise of the following article is similar to a 1989 movie with Keanu Reeves called Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure; where two teenagers travel around in time to meet important people during pivotal moments in history. Like the film, the people in this article are real, the events are real, but the time-travel clearly is not. Since it has now been established that time travel is not real, let me first introduce you to our two main characters, Franklin and Theodore Roosevelt.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt were two very unique, and extraordinary men that served as President of the United States of America. Teddy served as a Republican president from 1901-1909. Teddy had enormous public support and oversaw many innovative changes in foreign and domestic policy alike. Franklin, was a Democratic president and served from 1933-1945. He was the only US president to serve more than two consecutive terms, and pre-sided over almost the entirety of World War II.

Both men shared quite a bit in common and also related to each other. They had other things in common too. They both had very strong women in their lives; for Franklin it was his mother Sara and his wife Eleanor. Eleanor, famous in her own right, was his one of the few confidants he kept in close contact with after he personally witnessed the death of both his mother and first wife in the same twelve hour period. Teddy would later write in his journal of that day, something to the effect of “All the light has gone from my life.” His grief was so profound that he could not put anything more than that into words and just put a big letter “X” at the end of his short journal entry. Adding insult to injury, this tragedy struck Teddy on St. Valentine’s Day, which also happened to be Teddy and his deceased wife’s fourth anniversary.

This highlights one of the most important commonalities between the two men- the ability to overcome adversity. They both faced it, and they faced it hard too. Franklin at one point even built metal braces for himself to give the impression that he could walk, even though doing so meant immense pain; all the while he put on a happy face for the public. There are even times when he fell quite literally on his face but still he picked himself up. Paralysis, and other people’s views of his disability, would not be a detriment to Franklin Roosevelt.

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"You're lucky. You are doing well because you know a lot of people in the legal profession." Wouldn't that be a nice thing to hear. Of course, you would be immediately reminded of the tireless nights you had and continue to have due to writing, emailing current and prospective contacts back, creating activity on social media, and basically, working your boot off. Tell them that "luck" or anything for that matter didn't just happen. You understand that all relationships take work -- professional ones too, no doubt.

Here are 5 tips to successful networking. Hope they keep you inspired.

1) Be proactive. Soooo...you're at a cocktail party and you're chatting with someone amazingly interesting. After your wheels start turning and you realize that you'd like to continue communicating with him or her after the party, especially because you two vibed so well, remember to ask for a business card or a Twitter handle, or something. Whatever you do, don't walk away with nothing. Let that person know you are somebody too, and be genuine on why you would like to continue to keep in contact. If you're the first person to reach out, with confidence, you'll probably impress that person and show him or her you mean business. Feels much better to walk away with a smile. Believe me.

2) Use social media. Speaking of social media, if you're not on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Pinterest, Instagram, Google+, etc., you gotta spend some time working on that. If you are pursuing a passion and you're not on a major platform, you're missing out on the potential for opportunity. I get 90 percent of my fashion, celeb, lifestyle, entertainment, and health news from social media. I either get it directly from the source or I get it from a friend or follower (in which I then research facts later on). Having direct contact to some of the biggest influencers, decision-makers, companies, and celebrities in the world is pretty powerful. And of course, you can communicate with some incredible, like-minded individuals. Don't you wanna be up in the mix? Do you think that if a company you were trying to work for looked you up online and found nothing about you or your work...that you would impress them? Think about it. And with that, try to keep your online persona professional. Remember, you can always have different profiles for different reasons.

3) Give and do not expect the same in return. I can't tell you how many times I've promoted articles, songs, music, books, TV shows, and tons more regarding people I respect. Some of these people I know on a personal level and some are technically strangers. Because I promote what I think is great and what I think others would find great too, I don't expect anything in return. Sure, it would be awesome to get recognized from that person, company, or organization I'm promoting...But I've learned to not hold my breath. I don't promote with expectations. Some people are busy, don't care enough, or just aren't interested in building or maintaining that working relationship. Be fine with that. If you reach out to someone and you don't get the results you wanted, you should see that as a personal success anyway because you were proactive. All is good in my world if I don't "gain" anything in return. But all is even better when they do...Yes, that's a great feeling of joy. It's also a great feeling when someone initiates and reaches out to me first. Because I value networking to the extent that I do, I enjoy being reciprocal in some way or another. When it comes to networking, I live by The Golden Rule.

4) Be honest. If you find yourself really interested in interviewing someone...or taking him or her out to be a business dinner...or requesting an invite to an event...Just be honest with your intention. If you're not, things will fall apart in one way or another. Either you will be called out on your BS and you will come across as anything but genuine (who wants to network with a faker?). That, my friends, is the quickest way to kill networking. Remember: That person knows that person...knows that person. Don't make a bad name for yourself by choice. Come on.

5) Work hard without talking a big game. Under-promise and over-deliver. Pretty self-explanatory, and oh-so-very important. Do your best without over-promising on delivery, deadlines, or even products. It's easy to do that when you really do have good intentions, strive to exceed expectations, and are dying to kill a project (in a good way). Just take the time to make sure all of your bases are covered first.
EXCELLENT ADVENTURE CONTINUED

This could shed light on how after having suffered a huge defeat at Pearl Harbor and initial defeats in North Africa during WWII, Franklin was unabashed and eager to get right back into the fight. He was also unafraid to refer to Japanese aggression as “Tyranny” and German aggression as “Nazism.” Franklin, the Democrat, was also unabashed of committing millions of troops to fight a world war—too long after the end of the First World War. Franklin’s war [WWII], ended in complete and unconditional victory for the USA, as all the oppressed people of the world over. For a Democrat though, to call out Nazis for who they were, and to commit troops abroad to fight evil in the face of an isolationist public hardly seems the liberal move. Like Teddy, however, Franklin was not afraid to jump the aisle and cross to a more conservative ideal when it was practical, this is perhaps something we could learn from today.

After witnessing the deaths of his closest and most beloved family in less than half a day, Teddy Roosevelt wandered the frontier and became a thrill seeker in order to to enjoy the mundane nature of the world over. For a Democrat though, to call out Nazis for the USA, as well as the liberation of oppressed people the (WWII), ended in complete and unconditional victory for committing millions of troops to fight a world war. Franklin implemented these social programs it was for a reliance on government, and a “high horse” form of morality that is not only impractical, it’s simply not working.

Franklin and Teddy also see that American citizens, who are normally hardworking, industrious, and filled with fortitude have become somewhat compliant and depend on the government, and a “high horse” form of morality that is not only impractical, it’s simply not working.

Franklin was also known to be an avowed progressive—let us be honest, protecting the environment, break- picious activity because you may be charged with being a “liberal” institution. If the school administrators that be- came nervous about a kid with what looked like a time- bomb are facing public humiliation and a lawsuit, then clearly Ayaan Hirsi Ali of Brandeis University doesn’t want to get involved with something that looks and sounds suspiciously like bomb making. Our politi- cal correctness has become so upside down that it is starting to cost lives. In response to this, you then bring Teddy back to the film with the line “there are no right words to control” and Teddy says, “Well there are, you need right now. He continuously insists on doing what is “idealistic” as opposed to “pragmatic.” He confesses people by bringing the student with the clock (that looked like a bomb) on an official visit to the White House while they were building, and you didn’t even report this activity!” The neighbor tells Teddy exactly what the neigh- bor told authorities after the shooting: the murderers were up at all sorts of hours, receiving all sorts of packages, and doing all sorts of strange things in the garage, making all sorts of strange noises. The neighbor was too afraid to alert authorities because they feared the backlash if they were wrong in their assumption. The neighbor would be known as a “bigot” and perhaps even publicly shamed and hu- miliated forever thereafter. Teddy and Frank are now shaking their heads because they are beginning to see the problem. The form of progressivism we are insist upon, is not the progressiv- ism that they intended, in fact it’s regressive. It has be- come so upside down that you can’t respond to clearly sus- picious activity because you may be charged with being a “bigot,” you can’t fight for women’s rights abroad, like Ayaan, because you may be deemed “Islamophobic” by a political correctness has become so upside down that it is starting to cost lives. In response to this, you then bring Teddy back to the film with the line “there are no right words to control” and Teddy says, “Well there are, you need right now. He continuously insists on doing what is “idealistic” as opposed to “pragmatic.” He confesses people by bringing the student with the clock (that looked like a bomb) on an official visit to the White House while they were building, and you didn’t even report this activity!” The neighbor tells Teddy exactly what the neigh- bor told authorities after the shooting: the murderers were up at all sorts of hours, receiving all sorts of packages, and doing all sorts of strange things in the garage, making all sorts of strange noises. The neighbor was too afraid to alert authorities because they feared the backlash if they were wrong in their assumption. The neighbor would be known as a “bigot” and perhaps even publicly shamed and hu- miliated forever thereafter. Teddy and Frank are now shaking their heads because they are beginning to see the problem. The form of progressivism we are insist upon, is not the progressiv- ism that they intended, in fact it’s regressive. It has be- come so upside down that you can’t respond to clearly sus- picious activity because you may be charged with being a

hence she too, was a Muslim. She was mutilated as a young girl in a very brutal way, in line with the customs adopted in that area and in line with one aspect of her fam- ily’s faith. She grew up as a Muslim for a very long time and was arranged into a marriage she was frightened by her personal experience with her faith, sub- sequently began to speak out against the practices of her faith that she felt she had been greatly injured by. Ayaan became a prominent and outspoken figure and rose to become a politician in Europe. Ayaan even went short but powerful film based on Ayaan’s experiences that has recently seen a wave of barbaric terror, constant bombings, beheadings, mass shootings, even school shootings. You show them a school-kid who brings to school what looks like a time-bomb. The school reports the student because they were frightened that what has hap- pened in so many other places could happen at their loca- tion and so they err on the side of caution because it is after all, an entire school filled with children. It turns out it was not a bomb after all, and as a result, our current Presi- dent brings the student to the White House to promote the student as a victim of discrimination. The family of the stu- dent is now in a multi-million dollar discrimination lawsuit against the school. Teddy and Frank are a little unsure of where you are going with this so you bring them to San Ber- nadino, California to the home of the two terrorists who had caused such a threat and frequently attacked. You tell the White Nationalist parents, “Wow, she seems like a brave woman…but why was she mutilated?” You explain that by taking the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on the moral high ground and by merely shouting one of these phrases, you can make people believe that you are on

And if one were to look at the Americanegovment, what is clearly evident is that it is heavily dependent on government, and a “high horse” form of morality that is not only impractical, it’s simply not working.

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Franklin implemented these social programs it was for a reliance on government, and a “high horse” form of morality that is not only impractical, it’s simply not working.

Frankly I see now how all individuals are capable of overcoming adversity and hardship. Adversity may not be unique to America, but our ability to overcome it and progress, certainly is. We have always been able to secondarily become a thrill seeker in order to enjoy the mundane nature of the world over. For a Democrat though, to call out Nazis for the USA, as well as the liberation of oppressed people the (WWII), ended in complete and unconditional victory for committing millions of troops to fight a world war. Franklin implemented these social programs it was for a reliance on government, and a “high horse” form of morality that is not only impractical, it’s simply not working.

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Hitler, was a Democratic Socialist. Whether you want to call it Socialism or Communism it may look appealing initially, but it is always a bad idea in the end.

Franklin and Teddy both are itching to remind America of their resolve and ambition and time proved methods of success not more and more government dependence. The only thing government depend- ence creates, is more government dependence and eventu- ally Socialism. The problem with Socialism (as Margaret Thatcher said) is that “eventually you run out of other peo- ple’s money.”

There is one area where government might help and it is right up Frank and Teddy’s alley. It is actually the one area the government (our founders believed) was real- ly supposed to exert control over, and that is the maintain- ance of a strong military. The strong military pro- vides a more prosperous country, and more allies who in- vest in that prosperous country. Teddy apparently was on- to something quite profound when he used the now world famous phrase: “speak softly and carry a big stick.”

What we learn from Teddy’s phrase is that yes, diplomacy and negotiations are extremely powerful tools in the American arsenal; but it can only be successful when you have the requisite force to back up your words (the “big stick”).

This in the end saves lives and prevents future conflicts because it creates the ability to negotiate solutions out of strength and not defects of character, causing a safe and secure, more prosperous nation.

You now bring Teddy and Franklin to 1991 Kuwait to show them the truth of Teddy’s phrase. You show them how after only five days of overwhelming ground force (and some months of air-strikes), General Norman Schwarzkopf easily negotiated a cease-fire with a powerful dictator (Saddam Hussein) after expelling him from Kuwait. The huge but brief, military show of force was enough to even bring a hardened terrorist like Saddam to speak quietly with the US. We achieved a stunning defeat for Saddam, and an un-paralleled US-led victory.

For another illustration of Teddy’s “big-stick” phi- losophy, you would transport Teddy to Nanking, in 1937 China. The Japanese are currently invading all of Eastern China. The Japanese are currently invading all of Eastern China. The Japanese are currently invading all of Eastern China. The Japanese are currently invading all of Eastern China. The Japanese are currently invading all of Eastern China.

You then bring Teddy to Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941 where an unprepared America suffered a devas- tating attack by the same Japanese army that invaded Nan- king four years earlier. However, legend has it that the ar- chitect of the attack was a frightened Japanese Admiral named Isoroku Yamamoto. He was said to have written in a letter to Japanese Admiral of that day that: “I’m afraid all I did was awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve.”

Teddy’s “big-stick” strategy to combat Japanese aggression here would have been to utilize China’s vast resources to maintain both a strong military and a strong citizenry to deflect the growing Japanese threat in the Pa- cific. Without these available, the Chinese army and citi- zeny were left nearly defenseless and as a result, the Japa- nese were sadly able to massacre at will- nearly unop- posed. This also highlights the need for the pragmatic thinking for which Teddy was known. Although building up the arsenal; but it can only be successful when you have the requisite force to back up your words (the “big stick”).

To be “idealistic” in the hope that other coun- tries or nation states will never act upon their bad inten- tions is both naive and dangerous. In Nanking, and many other instances across the world, this catastrophe has played out far too many times.

Going back to China, and looking inside the embattled city with Teddy in 1937 Nanking, you witness something that emphasizes Teddy’s philosophy. A handful of American and German aid workers have stayed behind to help the suffering Chinese civilians. After noticing that the Japanese did not attack places that held an American or German flag, the Ameri- cans and Germans realized that they could use their flags to everyone’s benefit and thus created a massive “safe- zone.”

This impromptu safe zone had literally no protection whatsoever, except the American (and German) flags and what they stood for- a “big stick.” The American aid-workers gave citizens armed with nothing except what their flags stood for, were able to negotiate the entire Japanese army to stay away from the safe zone. The Japanese knew how militarily powerful the United States of America could be and did not want to provoke our country (or the Germans) at this time.

This “safety-zone” allowed many thousands of Chinese ci- vilians who would otherwise have been butchered, to stay inside of it without harm.

Teddy looks at you after witnessing all of this and reiterates emphatically, “I told you, speak quietly and carry a big stick!” You begin seeing the logic, but you also know that this is where a strong and informed citizenry is compli- mentary, so that leaders are elected who will not abuse this very power. Teddy continues to look on with pride, as he sees the Japanese, Chinese and German workers that set up the safety zone, etched into a memori- al that stands to this day in Nanking, China.

You then bring Teddy to Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941 where an unprepared America suffered a devas- tating attack by the same Japanese army that invaded Nan- king four years earlier. However, legend has it that the ar- chitect of the attack was a frightened Japanese Admiral named Isoroku Yamamoto. He was said to have written in a letter to Japanese Admiral of that day that: “I’m afraid all I did was awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve.”

These are just some examples of where Japan- ese enemies will be soundly defeated, knowing that he has the requisite force to carry it out- and he did.

We end this journey with a hypothetical. What if Franklin were able to blame any one of his failures on someone else or excusing them of being discriminatory against the disabled? What if he never had to face down the adversity he faced? The answer is self-evident, we may never have had someone with the tenacity and strategic brilliance to bring about the downfall of tyrants in Germa- ny, Italy, and Japan. What if Teddy never wandered the wilderness deeper and never came face to face down his own grief and adversity? What if he was con- tent to blame his grief on someone else and just stayed home? He certainly would have never gained his apprecia- tion of nature that caused him to enact legislation to pro- tect the environment, the benefits of which we still see today in national parks across the nation. Perhaps monop- oles still may exist in the form they did back in Teddy’s day if not for his appreciation of the human condition. Teddy learned about the fragile nature of the human condition after having to overcome adversity himself in the form of immense despair. This probably gave him the sympathy to help give every employee (as he called it), “a square deal.”

It seems like what our country really needs right now is strong and pragmatic leadership, but strong leader- ship that puts the power of the people back into their hands. It needed a Franklin, not a Saddam. We do not need more power vested in the govern- ment to cause us to be dependent, we need the opposite. Wise in political correctness be the one to take the fall instead.

TRUMP IMMIGRATION CONTINUATION

This is not an attack against Trump’s person. In fact, many confront Trump with gratitude as he has assisted in shifting the spotlight onto immigration policy. The problem is that immigration policies should never intervene, or otherwise disrupt, the fundamental principles provided by the United States Constitution. Nevertheless, Congress along with the help of the President are to assure that people are not held against their right to “privileges and immunities” that de- rived from being an American Citizen under both the Four- teenth Amendment and the Immigration and Nationality Act. In such situation that Donald Trump were to become President, he should be held to that same standard ... The rights of the people should never be compromised!

ALUMNI PROFILE CONTINUED

...like during a divorce. People are different depending on where they are in life when you meet them. It is great, as a lawyer, to get to meet people during all walks of life.

What advice would you give current students to prepare them for practice?

My advice for current students is to work on being the best you. Figure out what it is that you do that separates you from everyone else, and work on perfecting that. For example, if you’re a member of a firm that has a very small environment- al law practice, work on becoming the expert in environmen- tal law. You will prove yourself to be invaluable as the go-to person in that firm for all environmental law issues.

Thank you again, for your willingness to give back.
1. Even if you do not want to pigeonhole yourself into a particular practice, find one needed concept of legal practice that you can offer the paying public, and master it. Read every state/federal circuit case in your area that focuses on it. Read all the new cases that are being decided on that topic. Read legal reviews and online articles on that subject. Do extra work, even if it is not billable. Be an expert so that you have something to offer as soon as possible. After you master that concept, then you can move on towards mastering another concept.

2. Network with people who offer dissimilar services from you. A group of five real estate attorneys all networking and dining together all the time may not produce as many opportunities as a commercial real estate attorney who networks with bankers, real estate developers, and state and local government figures.

3. Find a mentor in your field of practice who does not work in your firm. Find a mentor outside of your field of practice who is just great at lawyering in general. Find a mentor!

4. Respect your clients as if they are your bosses (because they are), but treat them as if they are family (because that will keep them coming back).

5. Be active in your local bar associations and maintain your relationships with your legal friends. You’ll build a good base of support, friendships, and referrals will come from attorneys who do different things. I received my first client from a referral by a fellow classmate that specialized in a different type of law. She had a client that needed other services and referred me.

“The wish I knew...one of the biggest factors for getting hired is whether or not people want to work with you every day. Don’t be afraid to show people your true personality. They may like what they see and hire you on that basis.”

“The wish I knew...everything would all work out in the end. You will get a job and a life. Don’t fret too much.”

“The wish I knew...how important legal research and writing was for being a lawyer.”

“The wish I knew...the practice of law is as much about personal relationships as it is about the substantive knowledge.”

Kelvin Thomas  Attorney, Ford & Paulekas, LLP

Taliaa Gee  Attorney, Central West Justice Center

What’s in a Meme?

by PHILIP McPHERSON  LEX BREVIS Staff Writer

Copyright. Fair use. Right of privacy. Right of publicity. Trademark infringement. Those are a few of the legal claims that may be brought against someone who has created or otherwise circulated a meme.

Guy walks into a bar singing Nickelback. He belts “Look at this photograph!” He adds his own level of performance to it and holds up his phone to a photo on your Instagram page and immediately changes his tune to a stern, “I’m suing you for it.”

What tort could he sue you for? Copyright infringement. He claims you violated his rights to the photograph since owning a copyright gives the owner the right to copy; specifically, a proprietary right in an original work of authorship (including, pictorial, and a number of other works, fixed in a tangible medium of expression, giving the holder the exclusive right to reproduce, adapt, distribute, perform, and display the work.) He didn’t go to the copyright office, pay the copyright fee and get the photograph copyrighted. Generally, this doesn’t matter. If you have not secured the rights to the photograph, given to you by the person or persons in the picture, you may be held liable for copyright infringement because they own the right to their image.

Fair use say you? Good. You paid attention in class. However, what is fair use? Fair use is a reasonable and limited use of a copyrighted work without the author’s permission, such as quoting from a book in a book review or using parts of it in a parody. 17 USC § 107.

The guy who walked into the bar (we’ll call him Paddie for our purposes) also says that his right of privacy was violated. The right of privacy is the right of a person and the person’s property to be free from unwarranted public scrutiny or exposure. Paddie’s lawyers have been around the block a few times, so why not take you to the woodshed and sing some more Nickelback to the tune of a right of publicity claim against you (I’m not sure what Nickelback song this would be). Dear defendant, the right of publicity is the right to control the use of one’s own name, picture, or likeness and to prevent another from using it for commercial benefit without one’s consent. At this point, let’s just hope you haven’t made a dime from this photograph/meme.

If Paddie was perhaps a company, he might be suing for a whole lot more than just copyright infringement. He might also sue for trademark infringement. To sue for trademark infringement, the company definitely had to go down to the trademark office, so there’s no question of if they paid the fee to register their trademark. Yes, they did. In short, by clicking “share” on your Instagram page, you opened up a door directly into a courtroom and your wallet to Paddie.

They’re everywhere. Memes are a part of our daily language when sharing a laugh with a friend, colleague, family member, etc. We have no idea who started the one that ended up in the group chat between you and your closest friends or on that Instagram page, but the same laws apply to meme’s as they do to a photograph. However, like the photograph, the meme is here to stay. So, keep this information in mind as you continue to create and circulate memes, and do your best not to meme your way into a ‘Guy Who Didn’t Think It Was Funny v. Your Name Here’ claim.
Welcome back, everyone!

I want to thank everyone for their continuing support of Lex Brevis. That includes people on both sides of the newspaper. It wouldn’t be possible without both our readership and our staff. This newspaper is a culmination of hard work from many people, both visible and those working behind the scenes. Our team of writers, editors, and other staff invest a lot time and energy to produce our print and online versions.

Looking back:

This has been quite a challenge but, by far, one of the most rewarding aspects of my law school career. I could not be more proud to be a part of Lex Brevis. Our writers do a wonderful job of bringing important issues to light and sharing insightful commentary. They represent the diversity of our law school community. Whether it is covering activism, worker’s rights, or other topics, Lex articles serve to inform, inspire and expose important legal issues.

Currently:

Alumni and other legal professionals have been gracious enough to share their perspective and knowledge by participating in Alumni Profiles and of the Spotlight On series and giving support in other ways. One of the goals of Lex Brevis is to help connect us, students, to the broader legal community. I think we are at a unique impasse to immerse ourselves in the profession through experiential learning and other means. Last semester Lex Brevis highlighted mentoring and practical experience as tools to build a career. This month we look at networking as a tool.

This issue we feature content from the Connecticut Bar Association and the Massachusetts Bar Association, both of whom have programs within their organizations for young lawyers and law students to become more involved. County Bar Associations where we live and plan to practice are also relatively easy ways to network. Becoming more involved with local Bar Associations is a great way to meet people in specific areas of law, build professional contacts and develop mentoring relationships.

Going forward:

We wish we had more input from students. I would like to reach out to the student body to ask for your input, thoughts and ideas. Remember, this newspaper is from the students and for the students. It is so important to hear from you. We are looking for what you would like to say. We do not want to be a paper just talking to you, but rather talking with you. After many months of publishing Lex Brevis, I believe student input is critical.

Going forward keep an eye out for Roving Camera where students will have a chance to express their views about certain topics some pertaining to life on campus with the chance to improve life on campus. Also, keep an eye out for Lex Listens—the Lex Brevis suggestion box located on the first floor of the building. So let’s speak out and present what makes you excited or disappointed. As I said before, this is your paper. It is important that we know what you want to hear. Lex Brevis is for you and about you. Be in touch with us so we can be in touch with you. Email us at LexBrevis@gmail.com

With Warm Regards,

Amara Ridley
Editor-In-Chief, Lex Brevis