

LEX | BREVIS

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

MAY 2016



LEX | BREVIS

MAY 2016 ISSUE 9 VOLUME 43

1 | | STUDENT
ORGANIZATION
SPOTLIGHT
Health Law Association

2 | | LOCUS STANDI
Reclaiming Indian Identity

4 | | CRITICAL RACE
THEORY
Colorblindness

7 | | EXPLORING THE LAW
Municipal Law

11 | | HOUSING LAW
The Fair Housing Act

13 | | THE FIFTH ESTATE
Let's get personal....Socialism

17 | | LEX RELAX



19 | | ROVING REPORTER

27 | | Alumni Profile
Mario Brown II, Esq.
Class of 2012

We, at Lex Brevis, are always looking for ways to improve. We would love to hear feedback so we can work on making next year's issues better. Please email Amara at LexBrevis@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



This May issue of Lex Brevis marks the culmination of several things. My first year as Editor-In-Chief, the completion of my 3L year and a goodbye to a wonderful class of students I began this law school journey with. Though I will be back next year, many of my closest friends and fellow classmates are about to embark on a lifelong career of learning. One that we began together.

Whichever path they choose, they will always be part of this great Western New England School of Law family. From Orientation and our first day of class to the last set of final exams, I want to congratulate this graduating Class of 2016 because you made it. It was never easy. You might have even doubted yourself more than you would like to admit, but you did it.

I am reminded of my Native American heritage because it truly takes a village to raise a child and it took this entire law school community to get us where we are today. Our families, fellow classmates, alumni and mentors, professors and faculty all had a hand in getting you to this point. No matter how much support you did get, you did this. You did this thing that you set out to do three and four years ago. Let this accomplishment be a testament to what you are capable of when you put your mind to success. Lex Brevis has been a wonderful experience but I will admit, I had no idea what I was getting into nor how proud I would be of what our staff and student body have accomplished together.

To the rest of the student body and faculty, thank you for your support this year. To the staff of Lex Brevis, thank you for allowing me to grow with you. I cannot wait to see what next year brings!

With Warm Regards,

Amara Ridley

Editor-In-Chief, Lex Brevis

Student Organization Spotlight

HEALTH LAW ASSOCIATION



by **BRITTANY HINOJOSA**
LEX BREVIS Staff Writer
Brittany.Hinojosa@wne.edu

The Health Law Association (HLA) hosted a blood drive on March 7, 2016, in the Rivers Memorial Gym. The event received forty-two donors from the University, the Law School, and the general community. HLA's goal for the blood drive was to bring awareness of the importance of donating blood. Blood donations are beneficial in many situations, such as blood transfusions for patients with chronic diseases

and emergency medical procedures. Every type of blood saves a life, and HLA successfully brought this issue to light for the entire community.

HLA also teamed up with the Women's Law Association (WLA) in February 2016 to raise donations for the American Heart Association. The goal was to support an organization that fosters awareness of heart disease, which is the number one killer of both women and men in the United States. Together, the organizations successfully raised approximately \$200 for the American Heart Association.

HLA is a student organization that promotes legal, medical, and ethical issues pertaining to health law and policy. The organization strives to engage and inform the community of health related issues through its charitable events. The goal of the organization is to generate student interest in health law and to facilitate and encourage



February 10, 2016, students, faculty, & staff wore red to show their support for the American Heart Association as part of HLA & WLA's Go Red! for Women Day.

association between law students and members of the health profession.

A legal career in health law is challenging yet intriguing. It is a field that involves a wide range of legal issues and specialties, including work in medical malpractice, insurance, regulatory compliance, pharmaceutical and medical devices, and disability benefits. Health law provides a beneficial career choice for those interested in a growing legal field. There are a variety of health law courses taught at the Law School and ample opportunities for students to gain practical knowledge and experience in the field. Those interested are invited to join HLA and participate in its events.

E-Board Members: Kathryn Trogdon, 3L; Anja Rusi, 3L; Hadiatou Berry, 3L

Faculty Advisor: Professor Barbara Noah

Identity Politics

The reclamation of Native American identity.

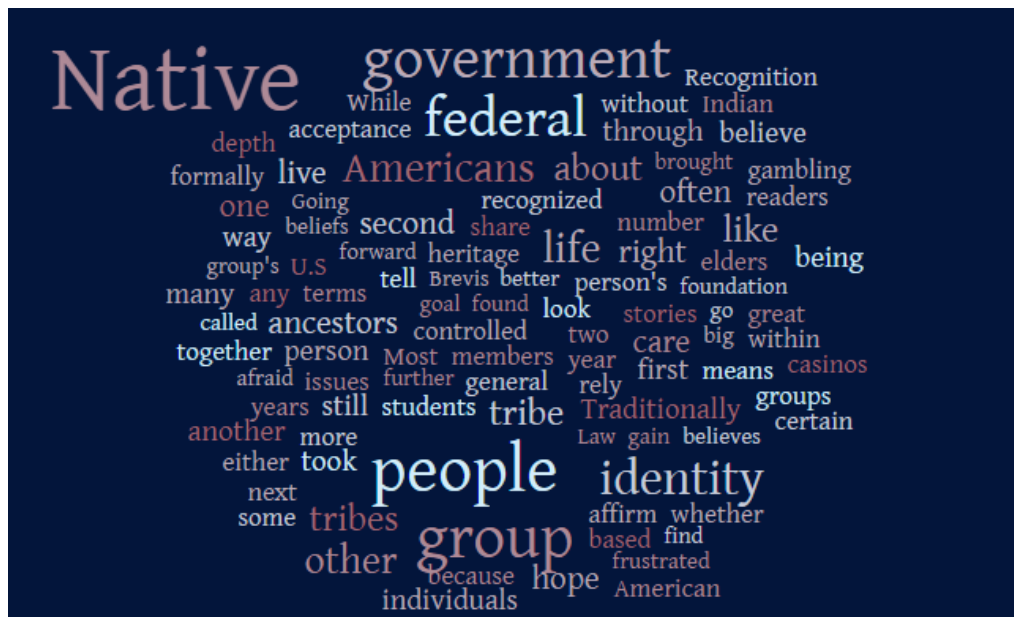


by **AMARA RIDLEY**
LEX BREVIS Editor-In-Chief

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As Editor of this newspaper, my job has been to put together stories that a lot of people would like to tell, whether those stories came from judges, attorneys, administrators or students. While individuals had a number of things to say in Lex Brevis, and I hope what they conveyed was helpful to the readers, there is one story I would personally like to tell being Native American in this region and our identity. In undergrad at UMass Amherst, I found a number of fellow students, alumni and professors who were also Native. I believe many readers also have Native ancestry and I believe they should be heard as a people. Maybe the conversation will help connect this group together in the coming years.

If I am still Editor-In-Chief next year, I hope to speak in more depth on issues of importance to Native communities, namely that there are two general groups of Native Americans.



The first group derives their identity through the federal government by way of a federally recognized Indian/Native American tribe.¹ The members of this first group can end up being selected or rejected, either directly or indirectly, by the federal government through a process called Federal Recognition. These tribes are largely controlled by the federal government. With these

tribes, the federal government has formally recognized these Native people's identity through federal identification cards and other means.

What does this mean?

No other group of people is controlled by the federal government. When an Indian tribe seeks to gain federal

¹The term 'Native American' and 'Indian' are often times used synonymously in reference to the indigenous people of North America, both among the indigenous people themselves and the general public.

recognition there are a list of criteria to be met that often requires certain members be formally removed from the tribe based on certain paperwork the government deems necessary to meet their goal. A person's identity is not based on a piece of paper or any other document but a person is who they are and what they are. A Native person lives a life with their ancestors identity. Quite often individuals know something about what they are in terms of their heritage. The federal government cannot erase a person's heritage by any documents.

The second group of Native people do not rely on the U.S. government to affirm their identity as Native Americans. There are many Native people in this second group who have Native ancestors and sometimes look and live their life in line with their ancestors' traditions. Some within this group weep and are frustrated because of how the U.S. government rejects them and denies their right to be within the federal tribe. This second group who does not rely on the government to affirm their identity far outnumber the first group but this group is at times afraid to stand up and defend their right to exist.

I am of this second group who believes our identity as Native people should not be determined by the government. Our right as a people is not and cannot be reliant on another group's acceptance. Native people as a whole are a very diverse group, in terms of how we look, where we live, etc. There is no one way to be Native American or to easily identify a person as Native. Traditionally we hold as important, our family and tribe, our relationship to land and our acceptance of other people into our tribes.

The perception or stereotype of Native Americans is one of dancing at powwows, and while this may have been, and still is the case for some Native people, most Native people do not do this. Most of us go about living a useful life in society like many other people. Traditionally we take care of our elderly as they take care of us because we place a great value on our elders as people who carry knowledge of our ways of life and who have vast experience to teach us. We take care of our young and keep them close so they too can learn from our elders.

I believe it would have been impossible for Native Americans to live on this continent for thousands of years without taking care of one another. Traditionally, we did not need great big hospitals, senior citizen homes, a welfare system and various social agencies. Prior to sickness and disease being brought to us, Native people survived on their own.

These issues and others, I would like to discuss in more depth next year and hope to find other like-minded individuals to share similar experiences whether or not they are in federal tribes. Even though there are two general groups of Native Americans, we still often share the same foundation beliefs.

Going forward I hope to be able to take courses on Indian Law, either here or at another school as a means to further educate myself and be better prepared to serve this group.

Everyone has a right to live their life and the life of their ancestors without the government or anyone else denying them their identity. This is not about a financial stake, like gambling casinos, this is about a way of life.

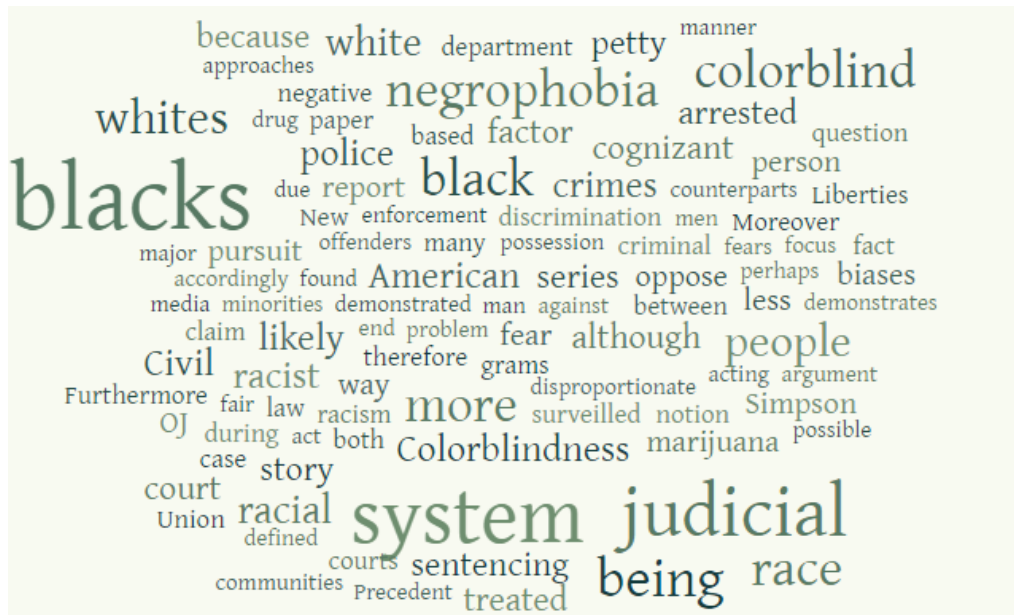
Critical Race Theory



Abstract

Brief Background Information

Critical Race Theory employs a



this is not typically the case since most people are known to have racial biases.² In such case, they are race cognizant. But, being race cog-nizant can be twofold because it may serve a positive or a negative purpose. This paper will focus on the negative effects of being sub-consciously aware of racial biases, that is, a racist judicial system that treats minorities unequally.

²<http://www.colorlines.com/articles/study-unveils-subconscious-racial-bias-asian-black-white-biracial-people>

Analysis

The media, namely the People v. OJ Simpson series, portrays the judicial system as fair and colorblind when in reality it is race cognizant and therefore acts in a racist manner. Being race cognizant, in many cases, is not a negative act if it is used to restrict pre-conceived racial judgements from becoming a determinative factor in the way a person would be treated. The issue commences when our judicial system allows racial stereotypes and ideology to determine how a person will be treated under the law.

Although there are, unfortunately, many cases where this can be supported, this paper will focus on two major ideas: negrophobia as precedent and the disproportionate pursuit and subsequent incarceration of minorities as opposed to their white counterparts. These two major topics will serve as proof that our judicial system is not colorblind and has, in retrospective, adopted many racist approaches due to its subconscious racial biases.

Negrophobia as Precedent

What is Negrophobia? A Negrophobe is defined by the Webster dictionary as “one who strongly dislikes or fears black people.”³ Negrophobia has been recognized by our judicial system as a viable factor in both criminal and civil suits. The problem, however is that when our judicial system upholds white’s defense of negrophobia, it is ultimately, acting contrary to their ideologies of colorblindness. Furthermore, a court that upholds negrophobia is exuding empathy for an idea that may be grounded on racism. Therefore, these Courts are acting in a racist manner.

In *Of Reasonable Racist, Intelligent Bayesians, and Involuntary Negrophobes*, Jody Armour analyzes a situation that is worth presenting.⁴ Jody Armour tells the story of a white woman who shoots a defenseless black man, after withdrawing money from an automatic teller because she feared that he would rob her. This black man did not assault her in any way. However, because of her fear of blacks due to statistical evidence of their propensity for assaulting whites especially during late hours, she may have acted reasonably. This is because self-defense is generally based on a person’s reasonable perception, therefore her views of blacks may suffice her self-defense claim.

Counter-arguments may derive from the notion that Negrophobia is a legitimate psychological problem and thus should receive deference in the court of law. Moreover, some have associated it to a claim of insanity. In *Jandrucko v Colorcra*, a Florida Court allowed a woman worker’s compensation benefits for life because she, according to the court, had a true fear of blacks in her workplace. This fear of blacks started when she was attacked by African American men while she was fulfilling her work duties.

Whether or not Negrophobia is psychologically possible is irrelevant. What is relevant, is the fact that no system should condone a behavior that is rooted on hatred. Moreover, although it may cause division and is counterproductive, a court should, on Equal Protection grounds, provide the same deference to an argument of a black person who fears whites. To this date, there has been virtually no such case, which again, puts into question the motives of the courts who have upheld, Negrophobia as defense; in a direct or indirect manner

³<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/negrophobe>

⁴Jody Armour, *Critical Race Theory- Race Ipsa Loquitur: Of Reasonable Racist, Intelligent Bayesians, and Involuntary Negrophobes*, 261-272 (46 STAN L. REV 781 (1994))

When a judicial system justifies a white man's hatred and fear against black, they are justifying racism. A system that justifies racism is essentially rooted in unfairness and is not trying to end discrimination. Moreover sensitivity to people who claim Negrophobia requires courts to use their racial biases to come up with a determination.

Pursuit and Mass Incarceration of Blacks

Without question there has been a recent uproar in the way the judicial system has treated blacks as oppose to whites. A colorblind judicial system would require that color would not be a decisive factor in how people get treated. However, everything seems to indicate otherwise. Blacks are surveilled more, arrested for petty crimes, and sentenced unfairly.

Police surveillance entails multiple techniques that help uncover criminal activity. Some of these techniques include but are not limited to police recording neighborhoods, on-foot police enforcement, and stop-and-frisk initiatives.⁵ Throughout time, police departments have unequally surveilled black communities as opposed to white communities. For example, in New York, a report by the police department showed that although whites make up the majority of the city's population, blacks were being stopped more.⁶ More specifically, approximately 87% of the stops in New York City, in 2011, were either for black or Latino people.⁷

The question remains, why are blacks surveilled more if our judicial system is colorblind? The answer is that, it is not. Statistics by the United States Department of Justice demonstrates that Blacks drivers are three times more likely to be searched during traffic stops.⁸ Furthermore, they are more likely to be ticketed.⁹ Although Blacks are more likely to be searched, in Massachusetts, a report demonstrates that percentage-wise, whites are more likely to be found with illegal paraphernalia during a traffic stop.¹⁰

The fact that Whites have a higher likelihood of being

arrested for a drug offense upon being searched, perhaps indicates that Blacks are being stopped for reasons that undermine colorblindness ideologies. If the judicial system was actually colorblind, then the surveillance rates would be comparatively similar between Black and Whites.

The American Civil Liberties Union demonstrate that Blacks, in New Jersey, were more likely to be arrested for petty crimes. Petty crimes are crimes like loitering, marijuana possession (50 grams or less), trespassing, and disorderly conduct.¹¹ This 10 year report demonstrated that law enforcement were less forgiving of Blacks, when they had discretion.

The American Civil Liberties Union also found that although Whites and Blacks consume marijuana at similar rates, Blacks are more likely to be arrested for possessing less than 50 grams. But, why is there such a discrepancy? The American Civil Liberty suggests that Blacks are constantly harassed and are perceived as offenders by police officers.¹² This pursuit of blacks who commit petty crimes is another factor that undermines the judicial system's notion of being colorblind. If they were colorblind, there would not be such a huge distinctions between black and white marijuana consumers who are arrested for possession less than 50 grams of marijuana.

In addition to the constant pursuit of Blacks for committing petty crimes, there is also a disproportionate treatment in sentencing. The United States Sentencing Commission issued a report that recognizes the disparity in sentencing treatment between Blacks and Whites.¹³ Among the reasons attributed for this result, is the likelihood that Blacks are being discriminated against in sentencing. Furthermore, the American Civil Liberties Union notes an important statistic that supports discrimination as being the reason for unequal sentencing. They noted that when Georgia implemented their Two Strike rule which allowed prosecutors the opportunity to seek life imprisonment for second-time drug offenders, only 1% of whites faced this as oppose to 16% of Blacks.

(Continued on Page 18)

⁵<http://cironline.org/blog/post/7-mass-surveillance-tools-your-local-police-might-be-using-6327>

⁶http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/10/nypd-stop-and-frisk-new-nyclu-racial-disparities_n_1506391.html

⁷http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/10/nypd-stop-and-frisk-new-nyclu-racial-disparities_n_1506391.html

⁸<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=702>

⁹<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=702>

¹⁰<http://archive.boston.com/globe/metro/packages/tickets/010603.shtml>

¹¹http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2015/12/aclu_report_finds_extreme_racial_disparity_in_nj_a.html

¹²http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2015/12/aclu_report_finds_extreme_racial_disparity_in_nj_a.html

¹³<http://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-projects-and-surveys/miscellaneous/15-year-study/chap4.pdf>

Municipal Law



Attorney Marc Strange
Class of 2004

Town of Agawam, Director of Planning & Community Development

What advice would you give to law students?

Relationships are critical. Connect with professors. Connect with classmates. Get involved in situations where you will be in contact with attorneys. Substantive experience and expertise are important but relationships are the key to your future.

What inspired you to pursue a law degree?

I was a business major at Syracuse University but noticed that statutes and the law pervaded almost every business class. A law degree seemed like job security...and justifiable (though expensive) life procrastination.

What did you do in law school? (clinics, work, internships, other?)

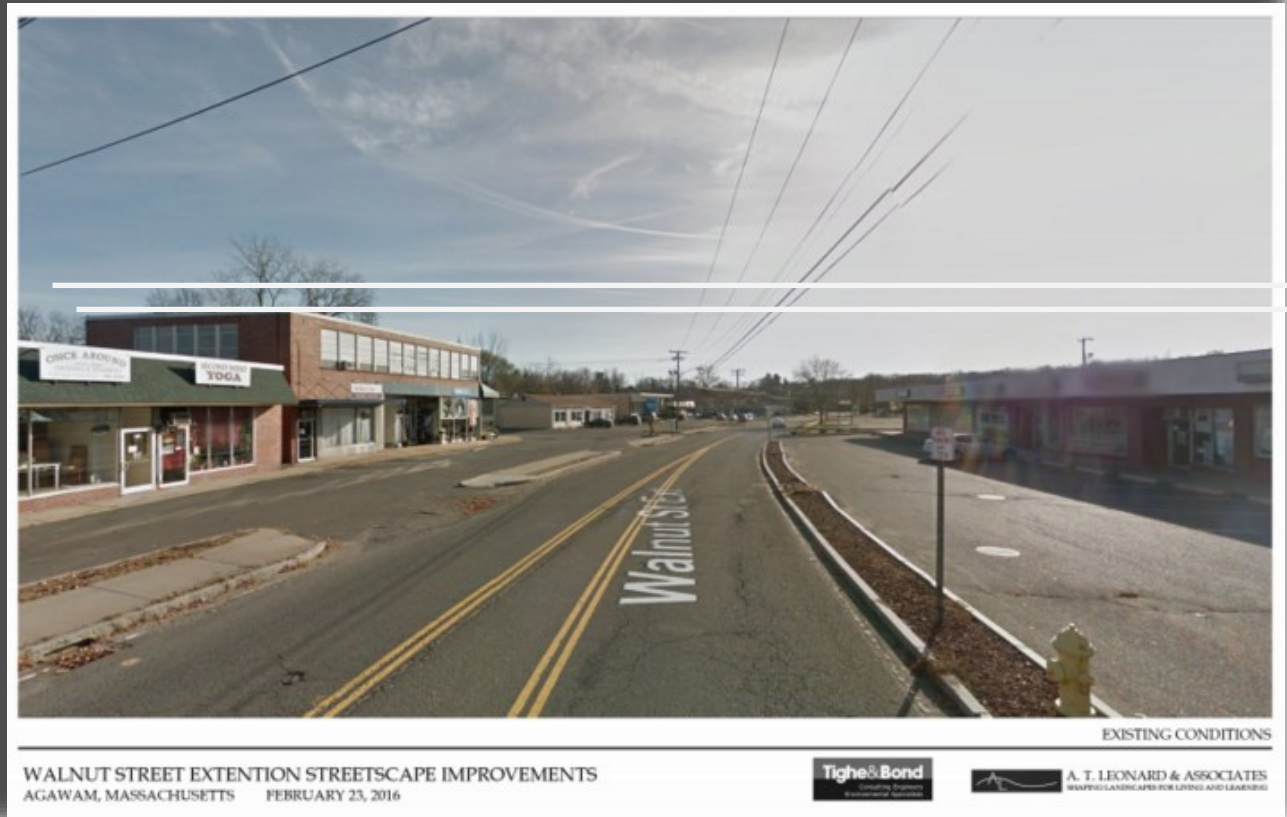
Other than study a lot and battle anxiety, I was fortunate enough to land on the Negotiation Moot Court team under Nancy Sykes. I also enjoyed the Real Estate Practicum and Consumer Protection clinic, which was taught by Judge Hyland, where I tried a case in District Court against a practicing attorney in front of Judge Ryan. Great experience. I also worked part-time during my second and third years as the Law Clerk for the Town of Agawam, which ultimately opened the door for my current position.

What was your favorite/least favorite thing about law school?

I favored all of the practical experiences that I was able to get under my belt before graduation. I narrowly missed grading onto Law Review after first year, which was initially a source of angst but, ultimately, it was a blessing because I was able to do so many other things during my second and third years that may not have been possible with a Law Review commitment. My least favorite thing about law school was that it took three years.

What did you do after you graduated law school? Lots of stuff. Assistant district attorney in New York. Wrote sales and excise tax legislation and litigated high net-worth personal income tax cases for New York State. Worked in various capacities for the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development in Massachusetts. Private practice. A veritable smorgasbord of professional experiences.

The current view of Water Street Extension.



Plans for the Water Street Extension.



Did your initial goals for getting a law degree change over time? If so, why?

I guess my initial goal for getting a law degree was job security, intellectual stimulation, and being involved in a noble profession. As it turns out, economic downturns generally have more to do with job security than diplomas, and nobility lies within the eyes of the beholder (though I am still quite proud to tell people that I am an attorney). But the law has always been stimulating to me. Words matter. Punctuation matters. Meanings change over time and in different contexts and cultures. And it's still astounding how two intelligent people can read the same sentence or paragraph, interpret the words differently, and be able to justify their interpretations. Good stuff.

What is the area of law you work in and what does it mean to the legal profession?

As a municipal planner and director of development, I am involved in most projects that purport to change the town's landscape and business climate. One of my areas of focus since I started working in my current position has been to create a downtown area in Agawam and revitalize the surrounding areas. This area lies on the Agawam-side of the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge, which connects Agawam and West Springfield not far from the Eastern States Exposition. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has redesigned and is scheduled to reconstruct the bridge and intersections on each side of the bridge (and beyond) in 2017. For Agawam, the bridge and intersection are the gateway into town and offer various options for consumers, including Rocky's Ace Hardware, Rite-Aid, Friendly's, Valero's gas station, Walgreens, Dave's Soda and Pet City, and a spectrum of small businesses. Many of

Municipal government is the ground floor for so many things.

Relationships are critical. Connect with professors. Connect with classmates.

those small businesses reside on the Walnut Street Extension. Due to its location and the success of those small businesses, Walnut Street Extension is poised to be revitalized into the town's downtown center. We are in the process of redesigning the streetscape with an outdoor market concept, which will include wide side-

walks, traffic calming features, and buffered bicycle/pedestrian paths. We are simultaneously attempting to clear the blight that has burdened

this area for years. For example, the Agawam Motor Lodge and the "Games and Lanes" buildings were both recently sold to developers with an eye toward redeveloping both parcels.

What is the most fulfilling part of what you do?

Municipal government is the ground floor for so many things. I have worked in state government and private practice and never have I felt more connected to the community in which I work, which, like anything else, has its joys and frustrations.

Is there anything that surprised you about the path you took or area of law you work in?

Yes. I never thought that I would wind up as the Director of Planning and Community Development. Maybe the City Solicitor but even that would have been an exponentially long shot. Life is breathtakingly unpredictable and winding.

Is there any advice you would give a student who may be interested in taking the same path?

I'd be happy to talk to any student looking for advice. Look me up: www.agawam.ma.us.

Law School Lexicon

Coffee: You don't drink coffee? May as well sign up for that loyalty card now.

Cold Call: Let's just say you'll go cold all over if you haven't done your reading.

Gunner: This guy always does his reading...and everyone knows it.

Hornbooks: These are your friends; search them out in the law library to supplement your understanding of the material.

IRAC: Get your four-pack of highlighters now. You'll be marking up the case law in a color-coded fashion according to Issue, Rule, Analysis, and Conclusion.

Outlining: Outlining is condensing the material down to a manageable study guide. Begin outlining when you've concluded a major section of the course, using your course syllabus and casebook to create headings and synthesize the rules that you've learned. Include case summaries like this one:

Palsgraf v. Long Island Railroad, Pg. X. Cardozo. Railroad guard pushes man, causing him to drop an unassuming package. Package in fact contains fireworks that explode and cause scales to fall on the plaintiff. Illustrates that the plaintiff's harm was not foreseeable, so no proximate cause.

Socratic Method: This is what makes the first year of law school the best year of education of your life. It is the pedagogical technique also known as "hiding the ball." The professor does not give information directly but instead elicits it through a series of questions (to students who had better be prepared to answer them).

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The Fair Housing Act

Turning Down Tenants and Buyers Over Criminal Records May Be Discrimination



by **LILYA RORABACK**
LEX BREVIS Staff Writer
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The Fair Housing Act (the “Act”) prohibits both intentional housing discrimination and practices that have an unjustified discriminatory impact because of race, national origin, color, religion, sex, handicap, or familial status. The Act does not per se include criminals as a protected class. However, because of widespread racial and ethnic disparities in the U.S. criminal justice system, denying housing over a criminal record may be discrimination.

One in four Americans has a criminal record, which can include arrests that never led to convictions. Additionally, the records contain convictions for a wide range of crime, from petty to grave, that may have happened years or even decades ago.

A criminal record does not only make it difficult to find a job, but also a home. Private landlords and public housing projects have ongoing policies against renting to people with criminal records. Report-



Rowhouses in Baltimore sit across the street from a church where Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., held a meeting last summer about, among other things, reducing ex-convict recidivism.

ed cases involve individuals who have gone 30 years without a repeat offense, and are forced to live with and rely on family members, due to the difficulty in securing a lease.

On April 4, 2016, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released guidance on the application of the Act’s standards to the use of criminal records by providers of housing and real estate-related transactions. HUD

explained that although the Act does not prohibit housing providers from considering criminal history information when making housing decisions, arbitrary and overbroad criminal history-related restrictions are likely to lack a legally sufficient justification. Thus, a discriminatory impact resulting from a policy or practice that denies housing to anyone with a prior arrest or any kind of conviction is not justifiable, and would violate the Act.

The issue arises when the housing restrictions directly or indirectly impact a particular class of people based on race or national origin for instance. HUD provided a list of statistics, from the Justice Department, demonstrating disproportionately high rates of arrest and in-carceration based on race. They noted that African-American and Hispanic men are imprisoned at a much higher rate than their white counterparts.

This means that when a landlord or other provider of housing and real estate-related transactions denies an individual access to housing due to a criminal record, it is likely that the restriction will have a disproportionate impact on minority home seekers.

Policies that exclude individuals based on criminal history must be tailored to serve the housing provider's substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interest and take into consideration factors such as the type of crime and the length of time since the conviction. Barring people based on arrest records is not considered a policy that legitimately serves to protect safety or property, because arrests alone are not proof of guilt. Additionally, refusing to rent to all ex-cons, no matter what the conviction was for, when it occurred, and what the convicted person has done since that conviction, is not defensible.

HUD outlined three steps used to analyze claims that a housing provider's use of criminal history to deny housing opportunities results in a discriminatory effect in violation of the Act. In the first step of the analysis, a plaintiff must prove that the criminal history policy has a discriminatory effect. This is to say that a policy results in a disparate impact on a group of individuals due to their race or national origin. Whether national or local statistical evidence should be used to evaluate discriminatory effects claims depends on the nature of the claim alleged and the facts of the case.

In the second step of the analysis, the burden shifts to the housing provider to prove that the challenged policy or practice is justified—meaning that it is necessary

to achieve a substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interest of the provider. A housing provider may assert the protection of other residents and/or property as the reason for their policies or practices. However, this interest may not be hypothetical or speculative, but rather substantiated by evidentiary support. Generalizations that anyone with an arrest or conviction record

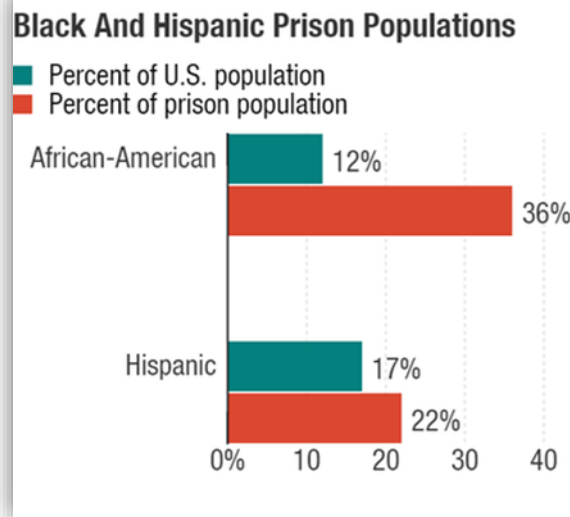
poses a risk, without such a record, are not sufficient to satisfy this burden.

The third step of the analysis is applicable only if a housing provider proves that its policy or practice is necessary to achieve its substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interest. At this point, the burden shifts back to the plaintiff to prove that such interest could be served by another practice that has a less discriminatory effect. Mitigating factors that help the plaintiff prove that there should be a less discriminatory alternative to a blunt denial include: evidence of the

facts or circumstances surrounding the criminal conduct; the age of the individual at the time of the conduct; evidence that the individual has maintained a good tenant history before and/or after the conviction or conduct; and evidence of rehabilitation efforts.

Finally, it is important to note that a housing provider will not be liable under the Act for excluding individuals because they have been convicted of drug manufacturing or distribution. This holds true regardless of any discriminatory effect that may result from such a policy. However, anytime a policy or practice excludes individuals with only certain types of convictions, a housing provider will still bear the burden of proving that any discriminatory impact that results is justified.

In initiating policies that may have a discriminatory impact on particular classes of people protected by the Fair Housing Act, landlords should strongly consider whether their policy toward criminal records is about keeping a community safe or about keeping someone out of a home.



E. Ann Carson, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, "Prisoners in 2014," and Census data, via HUD

LET'S GET PERSONAL

And then talk about Socialism

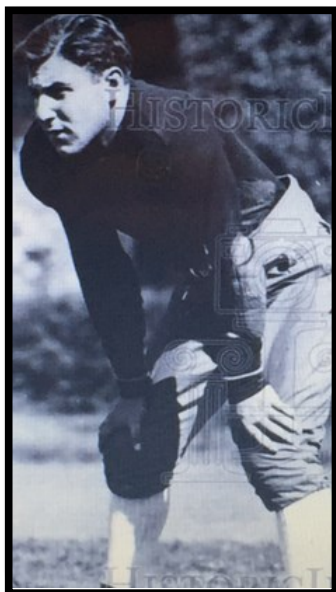


by **ROB ANTHONY FERRIS**

LEX BREVIS Staff Writer

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This is my uncle Bart Viviano. Uncle Bart was an All-American running back for Cornell. Being “All-American” would be our modern day equivalent of being in the NFL. Because of this, Bart Viviano not only has his own Wikipedia page, but his sports cards can be purchased and traded on EBay as well. No, this is not a pitch to sell his memorabilia, but it is to tell you a story about a proud family of Sicilian immigrants who came to New York City to make their own way in life. This very family also happens to be my family. I am proud to call them my family, and even more proud of their success because their success came at a cost so that I may make my own way in life as well. Before jumping into politics, let me explain.



somewhat akin to the way Saddam Hussein ruled Iraq. He took away almost any chance of free enterprise and took away the ability of self-determination and so it comes as no surprise that a family like mine came to the land where self-determination is a right embedded into our very fabric as Americans.

Uncle Bart’s parents came here legally via Ellis Island from Sicily. Tensions in Italy were mounting which eventually lead to Benito Mussolini taking over all of Italy. Mussolini ruled with an iron fist

When born, he was not going to be “Bartoli” like his uncle or “Ludovico” like his father but “Bart” and his brother was not going to be “Ludovico” but “Louis.” English was to be spoken at home and in public, and the family learned how to get rid of their Sicilian accent. This may seem strange to us now that they should need to get rid of their native tongue and their accent, but actually, my family was happy to do it. They were naturalized legally and thus, like so many others, were now Americans and very much proud to be. Losing the accent and learning English was a matter of pride for them and a path to success especially in business. It was a way to say “thank-you” to their new home.

My Uncle Bart's family eventually became friends with the famous "Mama Leone" family, and the Ronzonis. Although because they were Sicilian, they still were not allowed to join the country club they so much wanted to be a part of. "Sicilian," to many people, meant "mafia." My family's denial into country clubs did not deter their pride but made their desire to prove themselves stronger. After proving his strength on the football field, Uncle Bart became a lawyer and then proved himself yet again only this time on the battlefield. Uncle Bart joined the ranks of American Soldiers and fought against the Nazis in Germany. Bart fought against a vicious enemy who were more afraid of their Socialist leader, Adolf Hitler, than they were of the allies.

You see, Hitler was a brutally honest and self-proclaimed Democratic Socialist who surprisingly, was Democratically-elected with all sorts of promises of wealth re-distribution. Hitler had great oratory skills, and he also had the power of manipulating hardworking Germans to believe that they were the victims of wealth disparity because of rich Jews who instead of earning an honest living, just took the money of hardworking Germans. This can be paralleled to someone speaking about, say, Wall Street, or the top earners in our country and how they are all evil and corrupt and they need to give everyone else their money. Even if you took all the top 1% wealth, it really would not do much once distributed all you would have is a new 1% that is poorer and nobody any the richer. I mean, imagine the top 1% knowing their money is about to be taken...they'd be gone tomorrow. Then where are you going to distribute money from? There goes a large percentage of jobs too. It would literally flat line the economy and benefit nobody. Hitler, unfortunately was even more direct in his approach than this.

Hitler proposed that instead of giving money to the rich and corrupt Jews, the German people should instead give their money to him...or rather...the state. Instead of giving money to the many Jewish owned businesses which by then was illegal, the money of the German people instead went directly to the Nazi party. The acronym "Nazi" translates into "The National Socialist German Workers Party." The propaganda by the media was enormously successful, it made every day German's feel that they had the moral high ground

because they were the victims of financial Jewish predation and extortion. Sad to say it worked and it led to the most disastrous world conflict in human history. My uncle Bart didn't fight Nazi-style Socialism with words but ammunition. He returned home and finally joined the country club which he was formally not allowed to join because of his Sicilian family.

Unfortunately, history has a way of repeating itself. Other versions of this mad idea [called Socialism] did not die with Hitler. Perhaps that is because the concept appears so morally appealing. The Soviet Union and people like Stalin were able to purge, murder or send millions of their own people to slave labor camps called "gulags." All done to equalize the distribution in Society while lining richly the government's own pockets, affording people like Stalin, lavish vacation homes called "Dacha." Not-coincidentally, the "U.S.S.R." stands for the "Union of Soviet *Socialist* Republics." A lot of younger generation Americans remember the Berlin Wall falling, but not exactly why it was built. It was not built to keep democracy out per se, but it was built to keep Socialism in. So many people tried to flee Socialist Soviet rule that it began to look bad for the Soviet-Socialist way of life and therefore the government needed to keep people in. The images of people desperately fleeing oppression directly undermined the government in Moscow. Eventually, anyone climbing the wall to get out was simply shot and killed.

Offshoots and reincarnations of this way of life can be seen in Maoist China where one of the worst genocides in history was committed by the Communist Mao Tze Tsung. Communism and Socialism have the same base principals and in their historical application are not much different. Too much power is always vested in one person. This can easily be seen in North Korea today, while their Capitalist neighbors, South Korea, thrive. The horrors of Communism and Socialism can also be seen in the killing fields of the Khmer Rouge and leaders like Pol Pot in Cambodia. The modern day failing of Socialism can also be seen in places like Greece, Venezuela and Cuba.

Our founders were very well aware that the government will always take as much power as you give it and most of the time much more. They therefore devised a system of checks and balances and the freedom of self-determination and a free market economy which we know today as Capitalism. Adam Smith, the founder of this system, envisioned that we invest back into the country. Some of us do, but we still have work to do, and although perfection may always be unattainable, Capitalism at least allows us always strive for more.

The one fault I would place on our founders in forging our way of life, is that they did not see the moral high ground as the danger it was. What all the aforementioned genocidal Communist/Socialist regimes had in common were that they almost all began as a “morally righteous movement.” Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately) for those regimes, Socialism as a philosophy is inherently flawed and every leader who thinks they can tweak it so it will work, finds out the hard way that it does not work. The leaders end up becoming the same oppressors they fought. Karl Marx it seems, underestimated the people’s will for class mobility, and the ability to always strive for better. People are human, they do not want uniformity, and they do not want to be locked in a box forever doing the same thing over and over. This is the inherent flaw in the Marxist/Leninist philosophy.

This desire for freedom and self-determination is hard won and found in our Constitution. It is why we adopted a free-market system. Imperfect as it may be, it has lifted more people out of poverty than any system the world has ever seen. Although it pains many people to admit embracing Capitalism and free-market ideals has raised living standards the world over and has brought traditionally depressed countries out of the darkness.

Instead of the traditional way of keeping and acquiring wealth by conquering your neighbors with no class mobility, Capitalism designed a way of inner wealth creation where wealth no longer needs to be stolen, but created, earned, invested, traded, donated, and spent. As *Forbes* quote of the day says: “Success is about hard work, smart thinking, and a team that is passionate.” Ironically, as more countries embrace free market ideals; the birth place of the free market itself [the U.S.A.] has recently seen our very core Capitalist beliefs shattered based on false narratives. These of course are spun by victim-pandering, self-shaming politicians and old wealthy hypocritical Socialist ideologues. As a result of this strange abandonment of the free-market, we find ourselves doing worse and worse globally, and internally more divided than ever before. A Washington outsider, without the special interests, who can run the country like a well-oiled corporation, may not be such a bad idea, and no I do not endorse anyone in particular.

Thanks to numerous countries fully or even partially embracing the free market, business abroad has been pretty good. India has begun to boom as it breaks the chains of its former Caste system, Japan since recovering from WWII has been developing, innovating and profiting by leaps and bounds, South Korea. Even China has begun to tacitly embrace the free market in its own way and has been rapidly emerging as a competing superpower.

Many countries at one point put royalty on top and merchants at the bottom. Capitalism however puts merchants at the top and erases royalty altogether. This creates wealth and jobs and allows it to flow down. For example, innovators create cars, cars create manufacturers, and they in turn hire workers, and all buy products, and those products all have businesses and workers of their own.

¹ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/objectivist/2013/02/25/capitalism-in-no-way-created-poverty-it-inherited-it/#e7c9e5952504>

² Dnesh Dsouza, “America, Imagine a world without her.”

³ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/objectivist/2013/02/25/capitalism-in-no-way-created-poverty-it-inherited-it/#e7c9e5952504>

Thanks to this system, many people find themselves able to choose what to be through personal integrity and hard work. Sorry to say to the self-shaming Americans out there, modern wealth is created. I would love to bore you with sound statistics but I don't even need to. All you have to do is look in your pocket and pull out your Android or iPhone. We should be proud of our businesses. Consider how prosperous the world could be if all countries did business and traded with one another.

As for the victim-pandering, hypocritical ideologues (Bernie, Hillary, Cruz) I would ask them a few questions: Will you lead the way in the way of life you wish to impose on others? Will you Bernie Sanders as a "one percenter" tax and give over half of your earnings and net worth to the indebted students you pander to? Will you Hillary Clinton, give back your \$675,000 speaking fee from Wall Street's Goldman Sachs? Will you Hillary Clinton, cut ties with Saudi Arabia, the most oppressive re-gime to women on the planet? Will you stop taking their donations? Will you show your solidarity with the thousands of women of the Kurdish nation who fight like lions? Will both of you get rid of your armed security guards? Will you Ted Cruz the

"champion" of the constitution, take religion out of your politics as is clearly laid out by our founders? The answer to all these questions is obviously no. Provided we continue to provide them with the narrative of victimhood and government dependence they will continue to convince you that we need them. We need them to step out of our lives and let us be self-determining once again. Do we have basic things we can do to create a better us, an America 2.0? Yes, we can and we shall. This will be done at the grass roots though not by people controlled by foreign governments, special interests, and ideological battles based on failed forms of governance or religious intolerance.

Socialism simply does not work. When you say this of course, some of the first things you will hear are that "some" Baltic States, and "one or two" of the low-countries make it work. This is a false and misleading chain of logic. First let us dispel this notion, because the states being referred to have popula-

tions the size of one U.S. state. They have territory the size of Connecticut and are rich in maritime resources and are having population shortage problems as well as many others, but most importantly, they do not have a military to pay for. Their military, (because of the good graces of post WWII Europe and United States) is our military. If they had to pay for their own military, their version of So-cialism would be unsustainable and they would be turning Capitalist very quickly.

My Uncle Bart's family was from a small town outside of Palermo, Sicily and they forged success. My friend from a small village in southern Nigeria is receiving her Ph.D from University of Massachusetts in public health and she also forged her own success. My friend who is a refugee from Eastern Europe (formally controlled by Socialists), keeps a "go-bag" with him wherever he lives so that he can run away at the drop of a hat if our country turned Socialist because he fled from the very chains of Socialism. Well, he too forged success by writing a textbook at age 18 on learning computer code. All of these people laugh at the idea of victimization, and overly zealous idealism. They laugh at the thought of Americans as being an "oppressed" people, because they know what actual oppression is.

These people may be my friends and my family, but they are yours too. People like this in America are everywhere and walk amongst you. They are your parents, your grandparents, your neighbors, your aunts, your uncles, your classmates. There was a time when someone in your family struggled to build a better life for you too. Don't be ashamed of the success they had in forging a path for you. Do not let their struggles be in vain. Do not let your own be in vain. Do not allow the false promises of Socialism and victimhood be the honey that is poured into your ears. Just look at history to judge this. Look at what has worked in the world and what hasn't. Don't be a victim, be the entrepreneur that decided not to be a victim. Be the one who forges a better path for you and yours.

Unscramble the 9
Jumbles, one letter per
square, to form 9
words or phrases! Use
the letters above each
set of squares.

Theme: RELAXATION
DURING FINALS

GOYA



OVEM OUARND



TEA HTHYLAE



CIMUS



KSAEBR



ECCONENFDI



EHTBARE



EELSP



SUFOC



Arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer!

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



(Continued from **Critical Race Theory**)

This case is not unique to Georgia as other states seem to face the same struggles with bright line sentencing rules.

In 2014, President Obama along with the Justice Department originated clemency efforts to potentially grant relief to Blacks who have been given longer-than expected sentences. [1] Although these efforts do not, directly, favor pardoning certain races over others, everything seems to indicate that Black prisoners are the focal point. This is because in the past, presidents have granted a considerable amount of pardons to Black than Whites. Moreover, Blacks serve the overwhelming majority of people eligible for pardons because of strenuous prison sentences. [2] These efforts also seem to address the issue of overpopulated jails, by cutting short sentences of numerous Black prisoners serving life-sentences for relatively small crimes. [3]

The People v OJ Simpson series portrays the judicial system as being colorblind because they allowed a Black man, judicial relief. Everything about the process in the television series demonstrated fairness; from OJ's arrest to his acquittal. Nonetheless, the criminal justice system is not colorblind, they are race cognizant. They are aware of race and they act accordingly. Race awareness may be essential in certain situations, but it can also prove detrimental. In such case, being conscious of racial biases and thus applying that as a determinative factor, may create an unequal system, contrary to what a colorblind system implies.

There are many ways to prove that our judicial system falls short of all that colorblind entails. Two of the most notable, is the notion that Negrophobia may be used as defense to injuries against Blacks and the constant unfair pursuit and incarcerations of Blacks.

The defense of Negrophobia requires a fact finder that can identify with such defense. But, empathizing with this phobia, requires to be aware of racial biases. And being aware of racial biases undermines colorblindness.

The disparity of persecution and subsequent incarceration of Blacks as oppose to Whites demonstrates a clear bias against Blacks. Blacks are surveilled more, arrested for petty crimes and sentenced for more time as oppose to their White counterparts. These results, again, undermines how the judicial system seeks to purport itself in the media. More specifically, it unveils the true nature of our criminal system; a system full of racist biases.

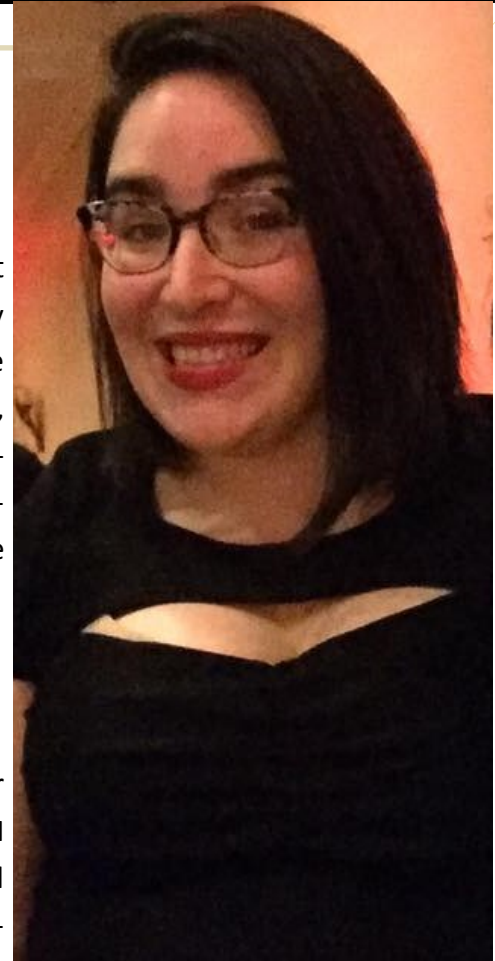
[1] Sari Horwitz, **President Obama commutes sentences of 95 federal drug offenders**, Washington Post, (April 19th,2016) https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/president-obama-commutes-sentences-of-about-100-drug-offenders/2015/12/18/9b62c91c-a5a3-11e5-9c4e-be37f66848bb_story.html

[2] Matt Ford, **The Limits of Obama's Clemency**, The Atlantic, (April 19th,2016) <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/12/the-limits-of-obama-mercy/383870/>

[3] **Prisoners in 2013**, Washington, D.C U.S Department of Justice, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p13.pdf>

Roving Reporter

Chelsea Donaldson, 2L



1. What inspires you to pursue a law degree:

I read *To Kill A Mockingbird* when I was too young to understand it, but the story put it into my head that I was going to be an attorney. I told my mother (who has been my biggest rock and support during this crazy time in my life) that I was going to be an attorney when I was eleven years old, and she said go for it! Since then, my biggest source of inspiration to continue becoming an attorney has been the people that I help, and the activists that I work with in order to inspire change in the world. Social justice got me into this profession, and social justice is going to get me through it!

2. What changes do you hope to see in the law:

I want to see everyone having a fair shot, regardless of the color of their skin, their gender identity, their sexual orientation, or their class status. I want to see nine women on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. I want to see more empowered women in charge of enacting crucial legislation. I want to see a more diverse workforce in the legal field. I want to see the end of mass incarceration, and the progression of progressive lawyering as a whole. (I'm told I want too much, but equality among all peoples definitely isn't a bad goal to strive for, right?)

3. What is your favorite/least favorite thing about law school:

My favorite thing about law school has been the activists I've met along the way. My friends (who aren't the activist sort, and frequently tell me I'm crazy) also help keep me grounded, and focused on the goal ahead. My least favorite thing about law school has been that we don't spend enough time talking about how law is often the problem, in terms of social justice. We talk a lot about defending the law, but what about tearing down the laws that need to be changed? Law school should be a breeding ground for inspirational thinking and ideas, not a reformist system.

4. What do you hope to accomplish when you become an attorney:

The only thing I want to accomplish as an attorney is to have a career where I am helping other people, and advocating for those who need it. Keep the awards and placards away! I just want to change the world, and if being in a court room is a way to do that, then sign me up!

Paulette Eze, 2L

1. What inspires you to pursue a law degree?

What inspires me to pursue a law degree is being in a position to help those that may otherwise not be able to help themselves. I feel that a lot of people don't realize what rights they have and they get taken advantage of when they do not have someone that is advocating on their behalf and advising them of what they can and cannot do. I want to be that person and inform those that they have rights that need to be protected.

2. What changes do you hope to see in the law?

The changes I hope to see in the law is a legal system that people believe in and see as fair. I feel as though many people have this strong belief that the legal system is unfair and unjust and that there are many things that needs to be changed. This belief stems from somewhere for so many people to share it and I hope that one day, the legal system can be viewed in a more positive light and that people will have more belief in what it should stand for which is fairness and justice for all.

3. What is your favorite/least favorite thing about law school?

My favorite thing about law school is the vast opportunities we have to gain practical skills before going out into the "real world." It's nice to have a chance to participate in an oral argument and work at a clinic or externship, to gain skills prior to becoming a lawyer. Participating in these opportunities can shape us into great future lawyers. My least favorite think about law school is outlining. I know it is a great study aid once it is completed but it is a very time consuming task to do.

4. What do you hope to accomplish when you become an attorney:

When I become an attorney, I hope to have a more direct and effective way to help people. To be able to make a difference in someone else's life is such an accomplishment as an attorney. Attorneys have that ability to be in direct contact with clients and assist them through whatever they need. They also have the ability to be a huge impact on someone else's life and that is such an empowering thing to realize. That impact can go both ways because many clients shape lawyers into the type of lawyer they become. Clients can challenge them with a problem that can seem so difficult at first but when you have come up with a solution, that personal satisfaction and that desire to help more clients is what continues to drive them. I hope to one day be that person.



ALUMNI PROFILE

Your name: Mario Brown II, Esq.

Graduation Year: 2012

Where do you work: : I am an Associate Attorney with the Law Offices of David T. Schlendorf, LLC

The area of law you practice in: : I have a general practice which concentrates primarily on litigation matters, including contract disputes, criminal defense, municipal court, DWI defense and all aspects of matrimonial and family law. I received my B.A. in Political Science and Law and Liberal Arts Studies from The University of Richmond in 2008. I received my J.D. from Western New England University School of Law in 2012.

1. What is the most fulfilling part of your work?

Not to be too cliché, but I strongly believe that being an attorney is an extraordinary calling, or at least it can be with the right perspective. Generally, the most fulfilling aspect of my work is meeting someone during what is often the most difficult time in their life and helping them to navigate the oftentimes daunting judicial/legal process...hopefully with a modicum of success.

2. During law school, what kind of work did you do that helped enhance your skills?

I don't think there was one particular type of "work" that I can say fully prepared me for practice or greatly enhanced my skill set. That being said, I actively participated in the Student Bar Association (SBA) and took advantage of several opportunities to engage in experiential learning, e.g. the Consumer Protection Clinic (now the "Housing Clinic"). These experiences allowed me to hone my critical thinking, problem solving, writing and editing, interpersonal communication and listening skills. Much of the relatively short lived success I now enjoy as a litigator correlates highly with the aforesaid skills developed through participation, engagement and experiential learning. The legal landscape is such now that employers increasingly want to hire lawyers who

have such experiences and are ready to practice

upon graduation; lawyers who can handle all aspects of legal representation from drafting a motion to conducting a deposition

or client meeting. Of course you have to keep on top of your assigned reading and class assignments in order to ensure that you have a firm grasp of the materials and topics covered, but the educational value of experiential, hands-on learning is so important to the development of skills that will enable you to immediately contribute to a firm or establish your own practice upon graduation.

3. What was the most difficult aspect of school and how did you overcome that obstacle/experience?

Time management was, without a doubt, the most difficult aspect of my adjustment from undergrad to 1L year. Although I am not sure that I can honestly proclaim that I "overcame" the time management issue, I can say that I learned to become more disciplined and efficient at multitasking. In order to better manage my time I began to actively plan my days, distinguishing what activities were mandatory and what I could afford to cut out. I wrote out reasonable goals for each class for each semester. This allowed me to really focus and is a practice that I continue, to some extent, today. The bottom line is that law school is a job. In fact, it is the first job in your legal career and arguably the most important. The sooner that you accept that and commit to it, the more successful you'll be.

4. Are there any specific programs, committees, clubs that you suggest current students to join?

I would definitely recommend that students get involved with the Student Bar Association in some capacity, whether it be as an elected representative for your year, an executive officer, committee member, or simply as an active and engaged



member of the greater law school community. I would also like to emphasize that some of the most fulfilling, important and fun work that the SBA does is done at the committee level. In addition to having the distinct honor of serving as SBA President during my 3L year, I had the opportunity to serve and chair a number of committees including Athletics (student) and Admissions (student/faculty). Through my active participation in the law school community I was able to meet so many people and make so many invaluable connections.

5. 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?

Truthfully, I cringe whenever someone uses the term "networking." I won't deny that it is a critical skill, especially for attorneys. Nevertheless, there is something about the term which just rubs me the wrong way, maybe it's because I am an outgoing introvert. Whenever someone mentions "networking," I picture an abrasive, pushy person who is overtly (and often-times awkwardly) engaging another person for no reason other than what that person may be able to do for them. I much prefer the concept of "relationship building to formal networking"

Accordingly, I generally avoided "networking" events while in law school, instead, opting to make connections and cultivate relationships with those individuals who I met through my regular, daily activities whether through clinic work, internships or volunteer opportunities. Professors are another great resource which I cannot emphasize enough. I think Professors are among the most crucial career resources a student can cultivate. An introduction to a future employer is only the beginning. Professors can provide excellent insight on every stage of your legal career. When cultivating relationships I generally adhered to three basic tenets. The first, attend functions where topics that you genuinely hold an interest in are going to be discussed. By doing so, you ensure that you'll be high energy and attentive, and all but guarantees that you'll be able to hold a real conversation with other attendees who you can potentially form a connection with. Second, I made sure that I always carried professional business cards with me,

to hand out to people that I connected with. WNEU Law Career Services offers business cards at a discounted rate. They are a wise investment as they are more professional than asking for someone's information to store in your phone. Lastly, I avoided seeking out people simply based upon their title or status. For one, it's been my experience that people who have big, important titles usually have significant demands on their time and short attention spans when it comes to anything not directly related to those titles. Moreover, they are used to being approached by people who are looking to "network" them and have become somewhat jaded.

6. What is something you did or advice you were given that has helped you now?

I made fast friends with many 2, 3 and 4Ls who were able to provide me with great insight into the whole law school process from diverse perspectives. Almost unanimously, however, was the first piece of advice I received, "do the reading...all of it." Not doing all of the reading is the surest way to find yourself struggling to prepare for class and becoming a distraction to classmates. A second piece of advice that I received was to take time to enjoy law school, to enjoy the process and to take full advantage of the almost inexhaustible list of resources available to you as a law student. For most people, law school is a one shot deal. So make it worthwhile!

7. Was there a class or area of law you studied that has proven particularly helpful now?

Though I cannot say that there was one particular class or area of law which I draw from regularly in my current practice, I will say that I draw upon the lessons I learned from specific professors on an almost daily basis. As such, if you get an opportunity to take a class or two with Professors Arthur Wolf, Bruce Miller, Matthew Charity, or Judge Charles Groce, III, do it and you will not be disappointed. Also, my participation in the Consumer Protection Clinic (now the Housing Clinic) provided practical, hands-on experience which has proven invaluable, so I would highly recommend taking advantage of that opportunity as well.

8. What classes 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?

Generally, I would say use your first year courses to prepare for the bar as they cover the major areas of law that will be tested most heavily on the bar. In addition to my first year courses, I found that taking Sales during law school helped me while preparing for the bar. Other than that, I took the bar exam prep class offered by the school during my 3L year and used a national bar prep course (I was a rep). Bottom line is there is no short cut, you have to put the time in. Universally you need two things to pass: sufficient knowledge of black letter law (bar prep course will teach/review that) and the ability to apply that knowledge in answering essays and multiple choice questions. I studied between 8 and 9 hours per day from approximately May to July. I also made a pact with one of my friends, Hector Zavala, now an Assistant District Attorney for Hampden County, that we would hold one another accountable for putting in the time. I sat for the New Jersey Bar and passed the first time.

9. What was your favorite part of attending Western New England University School of Law?

Hands down, when I look back at my time at WNEU Law, some of my fondest memories are of the wonderful people I met and the strong sense of community I felt. I made a lot of great friends, fellow students, faculty, staff and administration alike, many of whom I remain in contact with today. Again, I think the quality people and access to human capital are two of WNEU Law's greatest attributes, and ones which are not easily advertised, measured by U.S. News & World Report or reflected in law school rankings, but ones which WNEU Law remains steadfastly committed to nonetheless and is, in my opinion, unparalleled.

10. How did the skills you learned in law school transition into the legal profession?

I don't know that I necessarily "learned" skills during law school, so much as "honed" the ones I already pos-sessed, e.g., interpersonal communication, persuasive writing, critical thinking, etc.

11. What have you enjoyed most in being an attorney?

The most fulfilling part of being an attorney is being in a position to help people navigate through the legal/ judicial process with a high level of success.

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

Stay humble, never grow complacent, always do your best and treat every person you come into contact with, whether they be a client, co-worker, employee, or adversary, with respect.

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Lex Relax Answer key:

NORMAL

1	6	4	3	5	9	7	8	2
7	8	9	2	6	1	4	5	3
2	5	3	4	7	8	6	1	9
8	7	1	5	9	3	2	6	4
4	2	6	8	1	7	9	3	5
3	9	5	6	4	2	8	7	1
5	1	2	9	8	6	3	4	7
9	4	8	7	3	5	1	2	6
6	3	7	1	2	4	5	9	8

HARD

9	4	8	3	1	7	6	2	5
1	2	3	8	6	5	7	9	4
7	5	6	4	2	9	1	8	3
8	6	7	9	5	1	3	4	2
2	9	4	6	3	8	5	1	7
3	1	5	7	4	2	8	6	9
5	3	9	2	8	6	4	7	1
4	8	2	1	7	3	9	5	6
6	7	1	5	9	4	2	3	8

Word Jumble ANSWERS:

YOGA
MOVE AROUND
EAT HEALTHY

FOCUS
CONFIDENCE
MUSIC

SLEEP
BREAKS

BREATHE
MUSIC

GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!!

HAMPDEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 2, 2016:

Law Day @ 9:30 AM (Hampden County Superior Court)

May 11, 2016:

CLP & CPCS Children and Family Lawyers Computer & Technology Training @ 1:00 PM (Commissioner's Room)

May 14, 2016:

Spirit of Springfield Pancake Breakfast @ 7:30 AM

May 18, 2016:

Mason Square Library Forum @ 4:00 PM (Landlord/Tenant Law)

May 20, 2016:

CBA Shred Day @ 11:00 AM (Century Shopping Center, West Springfield)

June 2, 2016:

Annual Golf Outing @ 10:30 AM

June 22, 2016:

Annual Dinner and Vendor Show @ 5:00 PM (Sheraton Springfield)


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www.HCBar.org.**

Volume 43, Issue 1 | September 2015

Lex Brevis

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Lex Brevis Welcome Message from the Dean



Welcome back! As true as that sounds, I mean it – the faculty and the staff welcome you back to the School of Law, too. We missed you! The vibe in the building is very different over the summer. It has its charms, don't get me wrong, but without students in the halls and in the classrooms it does not feel right.

So, we're glad you're here. I hope you all had summers that allowed you to learn more about yourselves and the legal profession.

I am also happy to welcome you to the first edition of the new Lex Brevis, the newspaper of the School of Law. Lex Brevis has been around for a long time and it is great to see it coming back with new energy.

Speaking of energy, the School of Law has a couple of high-powered events lined up over the next few weeks. First, as you should know by now, the School of Law is sponsoring part of the visit by Justice Sonia Sotomayor to Springfield. There are three components to the evening:

The first piece is called the Forum Scholars Program, this is the component we are sponsoring. Through our support, copies of the Justice's book, *My Beloved World*, have been distributed to selected students (about 30) in Springfield high schools. On the night of the talk, those students along with 10 WNE students and four faculty (who have been selected by lottery) will have a private audience with the Justice for Q&A about the book.

After the Forum Scholars Program there will be a dinner (5:30-6:00 reception, 6:00-7:00 dinner) for the Justice at the MassMutual Center. Tickets for the dinner cost \$45 and are available on the Springfield Public Forum website. The dinner will be a big event (about 300 people).

— Continues on Page 2 —

Vol. 43, Issue 2 | Oct. 2015

LEX BREVIS

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

SPOTLIGHT ON: MENTORING

OCTOBER ISSUE

Our SPOTLIGHT ON series highlights a different theme each month. In October, Lex Brevis focuses on the importance of mentoring and is given a glimpse into the lives of a local litigator and his mentee. Attorney Joe Smith III and WNE 2L Kaydar Ismail allowed Lex Brevis to share their story. Page 16

"A mentor is not just a person to job shadow. It's bigger than that."

"An imperfection can show that you have learned how to cope with your habits in a professional environment." Page 3

"Prisoners in solitary typically spend some-where between 22 and 24 hours a day in a prison cell that is, on average, the size of a typical parking spot." Page 12

Calendar p. 10
Class Speakers p. 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Cyber Law2
- Strategies to Success3
- Guest Writer4
- Alumni Profile6
- Upcoming Events10
- Think Tank11
- Closing Arguments12
- Employment Law13
- Spotlight On16
- About Lex Brevis20

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY **WNE** SCHOOL of LAW

NOVEMBER 2015
Volume 43, Issue 3

LEX BREVIS

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



"TELL ME AND I FORGET, TEACH ME AND I MAY REMEMBER, INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN"
Ben Franklin

DECEMBER 2015
Vol. 43, Issue 4

LEX BREVIS

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If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.
—African Proverb

JANUARY 2016

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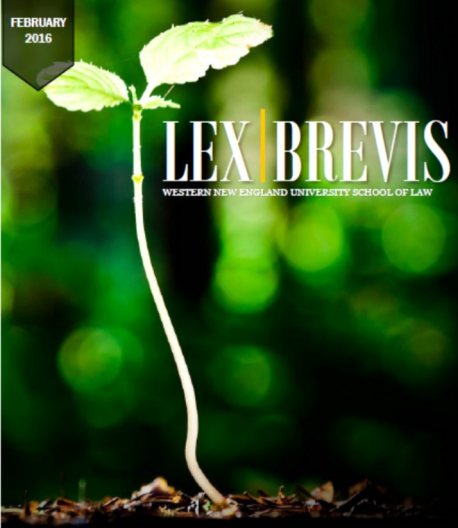
NETWORKING RESOLUTIONS

Start the new year off right with these tips and land the job you've dreamed about
Pages 1 & 9

FEBRUARY 2016

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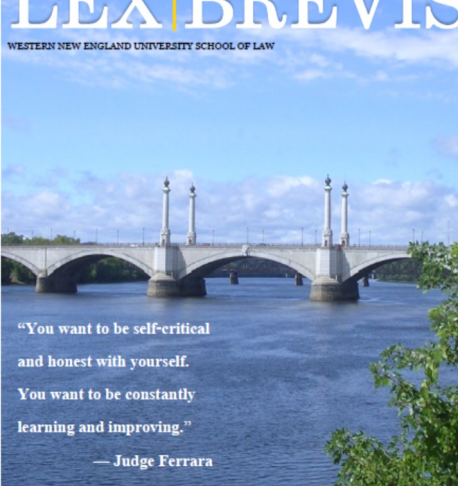
OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

How will you handle the challenges that come with being a new lawyer? One real-life account page 11

MARCH 2016

LEX BREVIS

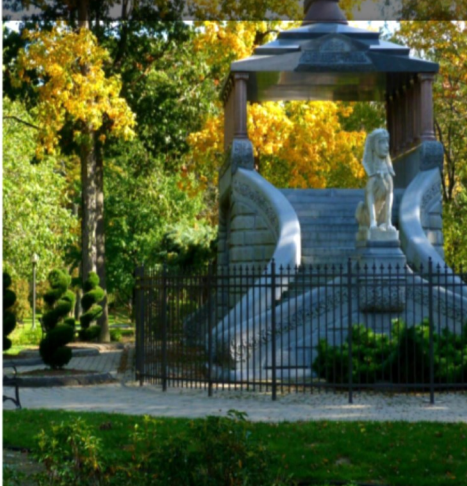
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"You want to be self-critical and honest with yourself. You want to be constantly learning and improving."
— Judge Ferrara

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