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A Letter from the Editor

by Alexander Cerbo, 2L

Dear Reader,

My name is Alexander Cerbo. I am a 2L here at the law school and I am the new Editor-in-Chief of Lex Brevis the Western New England's School of Law's newspaper. I am extremely honored and grateful for this wonderful opportunity I have been afforded. The newspaper is an essential component of this fine academic institution, and I look forward to spearheading its effort to provide high-quality content to all within the school of law community.

Since its inception, Lex Brevis has strived to provide all members of the Western New England School of Law community with an outlet for their voices to be heard. Students, faculty, members of the administration, professors and alumni have all submitted pieces on topics to not only inform but also educate and share their thoughts on a variety of issues and or passions they hold near and dear to their hearts.

As Editor-in-Chief, I personally invite you to submit a written piece on a topic of your choosing at some point during your career at Western New England. My goal is for this paper to create an open dialogue amongst all members of this school community where we can share ideas, thoughts, and viewpoints of all kinds. Since we are students at the only law school within the entire Western Massachusetts region, we have a unique opportunity that comes with great responsibility—we are meant to emerge as leaders, educated and well prepared in the law to re-shape the mold of the beautiful Pioneer Valley and beyond.

Take a moment and ponder upon these thoughts. What good is an idea if it is never shared? How powerful are words that are never spoken or written down? Do not hinder your ability to inspire others for your words can, and will, encourage many others to submit pieces of their own. If and when you do write for Lex Brevis, I only ask three things. First and fore-

most, no hate speech of any kind will be tolerated. My staff and I will be reading each piece submitted very closely to ensure no such words will be printed. Secondly, any piece submitted to Lex Brevis must contain some sort of legal significance—whether informative or for entertainment purposes—the legal component must be at the very core of your submission. Finally, no piece is to be written in a retaliatory nature. At Lex Brevis, we produce high-quality, educational content and pride ourselves on our ability to do so in a professional manner. As long as you abide by these rules, your voice will be heard.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I wish you a happy, healthy, and fulfilling academic year. I hope you submit to Lex Brevis and I look forward to further correspondence with you. If at any time, you have any questions, comments or concerns, regarding Lex Brevis, the content we print, or any matters relating to the newspaper itself, please do not ever hesitate to reach out. Lastly, we are also seeking new members. Please join today!

Sincerely,

Alexander J. Cerbo

Alexander J. Cerbo

Editor-in-Chief, Lex Brevis



Phi Alpha Delta, International ("PAD") Upcoming Initiation



The Middleton Chapter of **Phi Alpha Delta ("PAD")** cordially invites WNE law school community to their Fall 2019 Initiation ceremony. On November 11, please join the Middleton Chapter E-Board in welcoming a new class of initiates into the largest law fraternity in the United States and the world. PAD offers students a legal community that facilitates job networking and student associations.

Students of any year (1L, 2L, 3L or 4L) are welcome to join by reaching out to the Middleton Chapter head, Rickie Rizos.



“Unicameral”

by Stephen J. Kubick, 2L

As the new content manager at Lex Brevis, I wanted to share with you a little bit about the fascinating state legislature that my family grew up with. I did not grow up with such legislature as I was born in San Francisco and spent most of my 20 years in Los Angeles working for movie studios such as: ABC, Sony, NBC Universal, Warner Bros., and Lionsgate. Nonetheless, I spent the last year in Nebraska, and they have a special state legislature that operates extremely well. It is the only unicameral legislature within the United States, aside from the Council of the District of Columbia.

The Nebraska Unicameral legislature has become a force to be reckoned with against the executive branch, and its laws are, of course, binding and influence the judiciary. Although the Nebraska Unicameral was unable to drive through the expansion of Medicaid due to vetoes by former Governor Dave Heinemann and current Governor Pete Ricketts, their efforts contrib-

uted to an actual ballot initiative that Nebraskans strongly voted in favor of last year. The district that provided Obama with one electoral vote in 2008 is what cinched it.

Meanwhile, Governor Ricketts and his administration are doing their best to stymie the Medicaid expansion’s rollout, but “there is only so much lipstick you can put on the pig,” as farmers tend to say. Also of note in recent



Nebraska elections is the Nebraska ranchers who have stopped the Keystone XL Pipeline from passing into their property, and their voices have been heard by their representatives in the Unicameral. If the Unicameral decided to impeach a Governor, its singular voice would most likely be able to push it through.

So, this is an illustration of how something that seems not to be in the interest of the public – a unicameral parliament – can end up serving the people not only well, but perhaps more efficiently than a divided legisla-

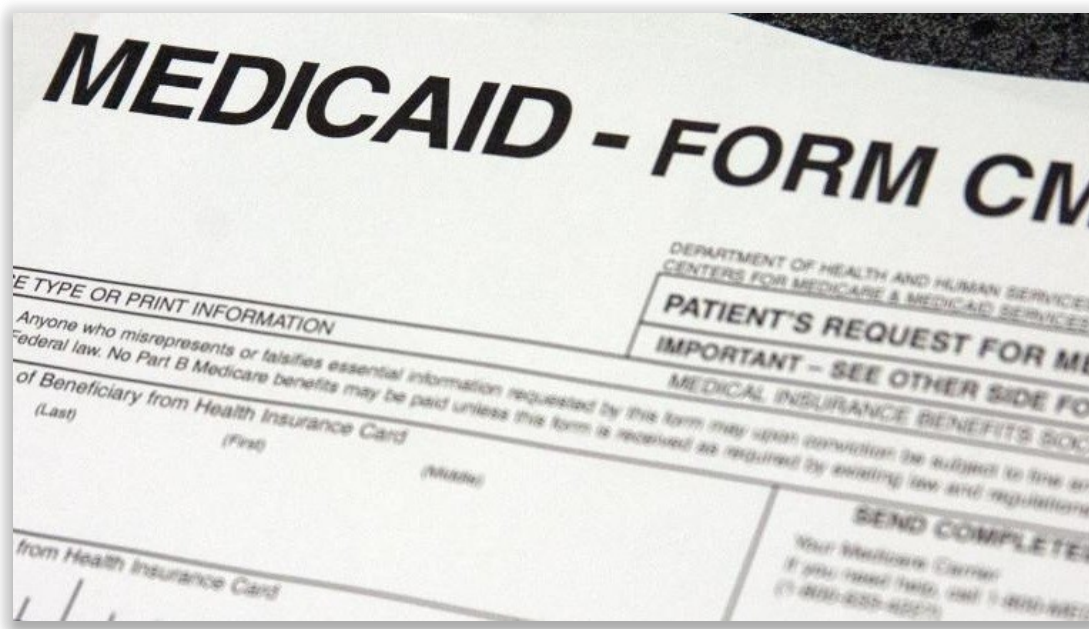
ture. Many countries have unicameral legislatures including: Costa Rica, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, South Korea, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela, Vietnam and Yemen.

I think it is a wise idea to test our beliefs and expectations of the various leadership and legislative processes. Lest we think that unicameral legislatures are uniformly fascist or



nationalist or in many cases, communistic, certain blue states within the United States have considered – and have come close to converting to – unicameral legislatures, most recently Maine, Minnesota and New York, as has Puerto Rico. I was very surprised at how influential the Nebraska Unicameral has been, with regard to the ultimate passage of its Medicaid expansion.

be heard. Sometimes change is in the hands of people who want change, such as when recent (four-term) California Governor Jerry Brown delayed marijuana legalization for not wanting to embolden "stoners." Ultimately, the voters of California won, and toward the end of his long tenure, he seemed to come around to the idea, or at least accept it.



I am happy to be safely in non-unicameral Massachusetts, however, and look forward to editing content for Lex Brevis. Think of me as your own private unicameral to help your voices

“All politics is local”, as former Democratic House Speaker Tip O’Neill used to say. Hear, hear.

Tiered Community Mentoring: Breaking into the Legal Community

by **David Tennyson, 1L**

Eleven years ago, an idea came to fruition that brought together both students and attorneys alike to foster community in the legal profession. The Tiered Community Mentoring Program was the result of this idea. “The TCM program provides students at the high school, undergraduate, and law school levels access to legal professionals to provide them with an understanding of the legal profession and an awareness of the career opportunities available to them” said Elizabeth O’Neil, Director of Public and Community Services for the Massachusetts Bar Association. “The overall goal is to provide information, guidance and real-life experiences to the participants so that they can make informed decisions regarding their future and career.” O’Neil said.

The first thing that stands out about the program is how much it differs from other community-based programs students may have been in-

involved with before. This program has an atypical design as it includes a broad number of age groups and education levels. The goal of this design was to engage students at all levels so that they may gain better insight into the legal community. For law students in particular, it is an opportunity to take charge in their new career field and interact with future colleagues.





“The TCM program is very unique in its mentoring approach in that the mentoring goes in many directions. The benefit of this approach is that law students and college students are acting as both mentors and mentees” said O’Neil. This structure allows law students to take a step into leadership and teach undergraduates and high schoolers about their experience and why they chose law school. While internships allow for students to gain a hands-on experience, there is often little opportunity to teach others about what they learn. The TCM is more than just a chance to network with legal professionals, it is an opportunity to become a leader in the legal community.

Aside from the opportunity to become a mentor to others, being involved in the legal community is also important to the wellbeing of legal practitioners. “Recently, the Supreme Judicial Court Steering Committee on Lawyer Well-Being reported that attorneys are enjoying the practice of law less due to stress factors”

said O’Neil. However, the TCM is an opportunity to alleviate such stresses and to promote for legal professionals. “The more that law students and attorneys can stay involved within the legal community through bar association activity and other best practices, the better their experiences in the profession will be” said O’Neil.





The TCM is certainly one that has evolved over the years, originally being a Boston exclusive. The program now has expanded to the Worcester area, with law students as far as Springfield commuting to partake in the monthly events. Participants who choose to partake in this program can certainly expect priceless experience. Students will have the opportunity to meet a variety of professionals; attorneys, criminologists, judges, FBI workers and civil litigators. They all come together in order share their passion in the legal community. It is clear that the program is one that has established itself as a one of kind experience in the Massachusetts legal community.

As the TCM moves into its 11th year in the program, there is little direction it could foreseeably go but up. The pro-

gram is unique, empowering, and shows students an aspect of their profession that may otherwise go overlooked; the value of community.



The Way You Treat People Matters

by **Gissell Rodriguez, 3L**

Dear 1L's,

Welcome to law school! You did it! You have crossed the tricky threshold that only the brave dare to tackle. You worked hard on your LSAT and on your applications. You have also probably worked hard on trying to figure out what rhythms you want to establish for your academic year.

This academic year will be challenging. It will be draining. You will be exhausted. But, you will learn. You will grow. You will find out more about yourself, who you are and what you want. In this process, you will be surrounded by people. People you will see for the next three years and for the

rest of your legal career.

My encouragement to you during this new journey, is to be wise in how you treat people. This is not advice telling you to be best friends with everyone, because that is unrealistic. But, what I am suggesting to you is that you take this opportunity to meet new people. Maybe you grew up in a city, suburb or farm. You could be an only child, or from a family of five. There will be a variety of differences between you and the people you sit next to in class. But, at the end of the day we are all human beings. We all have goals, dreams and have worth.



Our law school is small. People will remember how you treated them. People will also remember how you treated others. This is a far cry from asking you to be insincere. It is a challenge to make the most of your time here and potentially develop authentic friendships. If friendship is not what you are looking for, know you that you will be sitting alongside your future colleagues. When you are heading out to the legal field, your class mates will be too. Who knows, they may even refer their clients to you! Or not. Ultimately, my encouragement to you is to

be thoughtful with your interactions.

Best of luck during this year! You made it! Now, the real work begins. If you have any questions or want to talk about law school, do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely from your SBA VP,

Gissell Rodriguez



We want **YOU!**

Lex Brevis is always looking for new talent!

Submissions are welcome from day and night students, professors, administrators, alumni, the dean of the law school, you get the idea!

If you are interested in becoming a staff writer, have a great idea for the newspaper, or have captured awesome pictures of your law school community,

Email us at **LexBrevis@gmail.com**