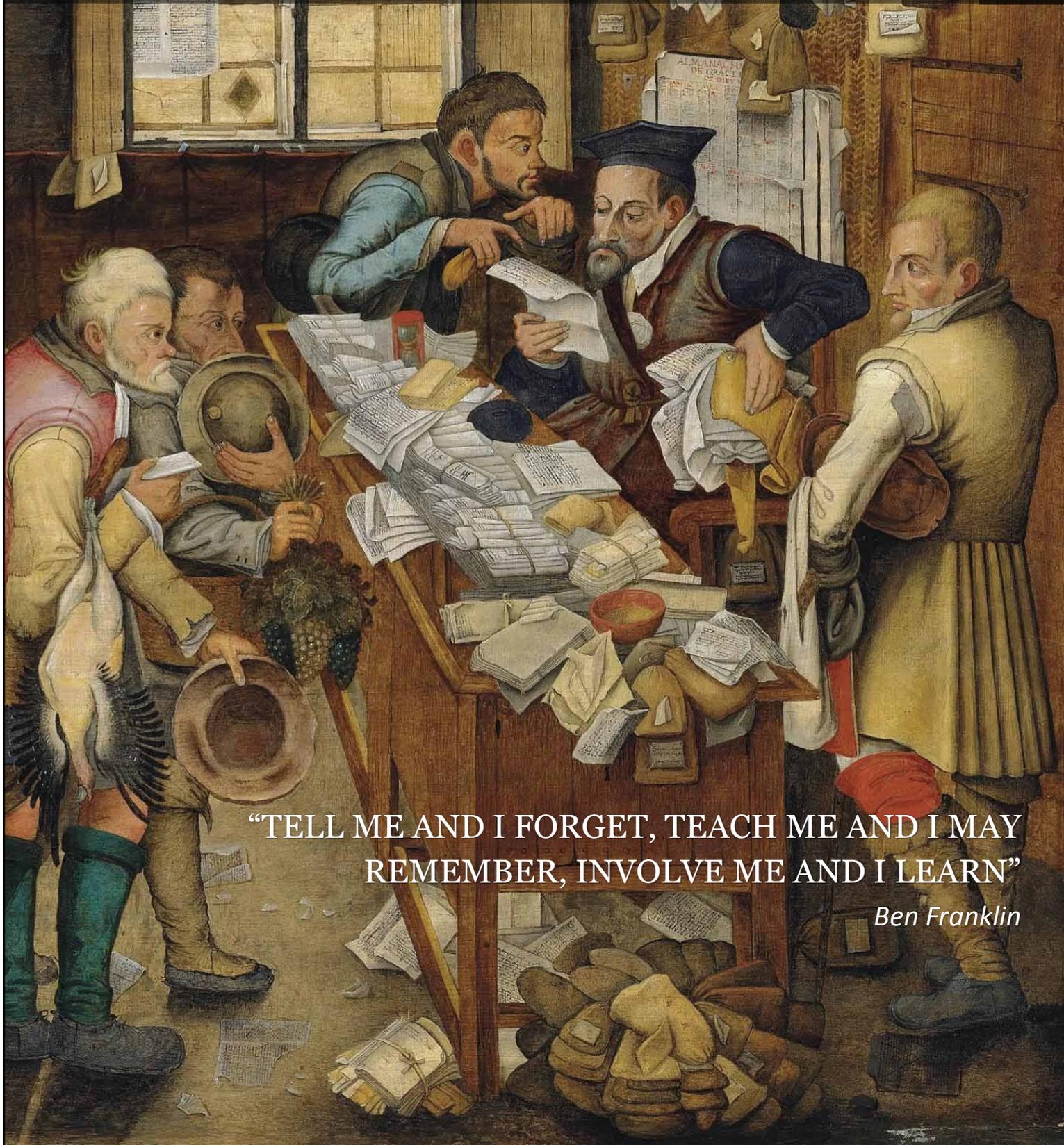


LEX | BREVIS

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

NOVEMBER 2015
VOLUME 43 : ISSUE 3



“TELL ME AND I FORGET, TEACH ME AND I MAY
REMEMBER, INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN”

Ben Franklin

6 | | ROVING REPORTER
Springfield Feels The Bern

7 | | STUDENT ORGANIZATION
SPOTLIGHT
Sports & Ent. Law Society
SBA Charities Committee
PAD Conference



12 | | LEX RELAX
Sudoku, Word Search & More

14 | | EDITOR'S DESK
A few words from the Editor

15 | | CLOSING ARGUMENTS
**Eviction within public housing:
How we can help**

16 | | Calendar &
Upcoming Events

10 | | FACULTY PROFILE
Professor Bruce Miller

3 | | ALUMNI PROFILE
Attorney Colleen Monroe

18 | | SPOTLIGHT: MENTORING
Judge Charles Groce, III
Springfield District Court

Alumni Profile



Graduation year:

2014

Workplace:

Bacon Wilson, P.C.

What kind of work do you do?

Associate Attorney with a focus in family law, civil litigation, and criminal defense.

During law school, what kind of work did you do that helped enhance your skills? I participated in as many courses and internships that would allow me to increase my experience.

Sometimes it was hard to match courses to my specific interests, but I put myself at a great advantage by seizing all opportunities that allowed me to practice various aspects of practicing law including research, writing, oral advocacy, and advising clients.

What was the most difficult aspect of law school and how did you overcome it?

The most difficult aspect of law school was balancing my schedule. As an ambitious law student, I did not know how to say "no" to things.

During most of my second and third years, I was trying to balance my course load, an internship, a paying job, my workload on the Law Review, and my extracurricular activities such as serving as President of the Black Law Students Association. Not to mention, I



Colleen Monroe

was still trying to find time for fun! It was very challenging at times.

To manage the stress, and effectively balance my schedule, I relied heavily on my calendar. I scheduled every appointment I had (even if it was just an outing with friends), and I would check my calendar before making an appointment so I didn't overbook myself. Additionally, I created a reading schedule for which I would read for classes two days in advance.

For example, on Monday, I'd read for Wednesday classes. On Tuesday, I'd read for Thursday classes, and so on. This schedule allowed me to take Thursdays and Fridays off from reading which freed up time for me to work on other tasks. I also tried to maximize how much I got done over the weekends.

Are there any specific programs, committees, clubs that you recommend current students join?

Either for classes, studying, fun, networking etc. I encourage students to first take advantage of any and all clinics that may be of interest to them. Practical experience is invaluable when it comes time to search for a job. Employers are looking to what job(s) you held in law school. A long list of meaningful positions will make a great impression.

Secondly, I was a member of only the Black Law Students Association, but it is where I became close with many of my best friends. As the former President, I

would be remiss if I didn't encourage students to join the Black Law Students Association. But I strongly believe BLSA is an awesome organization. It brings together a great group of people with great goals in mind. Because it is supported by a national organization, there are also many opportunities for you to grow within the Chapter.

I also encourage students to consider getting more involved with the Student Bar Association (SBA). It will provide students with an opportunity to represent the students' perspective as to how they want their law school to be run. It also provides experience in government, and from what I've seen, that is sometimes of interest to prospective employers.

How did you network—or if you didn't how do you wish you had? How can students benefit from meeting attorneys and others within the legal profession?

I networked a lot during law school by attending a variety of events. I networked with professors, other students, and practitioners alike. But I believe my most effective networking came through the jobs I held. When I worked in an office, I didn't just sit at my desk and work. I engaged my employers in conversation. Sometimes it would be about work, but it would also be about life.

For example, I knew one of my former employer's daughter played tennis. I would often ask him how she's doing and inquire about her tournaments. By getting to know your employers, and allowing them to get to know you, you are creating an impression of yourself. If you do great work, and are also a kind person, that employer will likely 1) offer you a job down the road, 2) introduce you to someone that can offer you a job, or 3) serve as a great reference for you.

The bottom-line is that you never know the impact someone you meet today will have on your life (or career) in the future. The law community is just that—a community. People know each other. People talk.

We are all connected in one way or another. Networking is going to help you make important connections. How do you think United States Supreme Court Justices get nominated by the President? By filling out applications? NO! It's because they have the right connections to the President! That is how networking helps us. In my current employment, I believe my networking had a role.

My firm, Bacon Wilson, P.C., has been around for 120 years. The shareholders in my firm know everyone! If I had a bad reputation in the community, they'd know about it. Luckily, I had a positive reputation in the community. I know at least one of my former employers (and maybe even two) had conversations with a couple of the shareholders before they offered me a job. While I'm sure other factors impacted their decision to hire me, I am confident my networking contributed to where I am today.

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

Be confident in the way you present yourself or your argument—even if you have no idea what you are talking about. If you are confident, people will believe you.

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

Yes. It was Litigation in the Pretrial Phase, taught by Kenneth P. Neiman, U.S.M.J. (now retired). As part of this class, we engaged in the drafting of various pleadings and discovery requests weekly (i.e. Complaints, Answers/Counterclaims, Request for Interrogatories, etc.). We also participated in weekly oral arguments. Arguing real cases in front of a real federal judge was invaluable experience. He gave us great feedback and really helped us to improve our writing and argument skills.

What class(es) if you recall, helped you the most on the Bar exam and what state's Bars did you sit for? And do you have any advice for those about to take the Bar?

My first year classes helped a lot—primarily Contracts and Torts. While my bar prep course is what I relied upon primarily, it helped that I was able to remember some of the principles I learned during my first year. Depending on what state(s) you are taking, you have to know approximately 15-19 subjects for the bar exam because you never know what you'll be tested on and what you won't be tested on. It helps when you aren't learning at 15-19 subjects from scratch!

I sat for New York and Massachusetts. One course I wish I would have taken is Wills, Trusts, and Estates. It was a major topic for the New York bar exam and I had to spend a lot of time learning it. Although I am glad I didn't take classes based on the bar exam. If I had, I would have missed out on some of my favorite classes like all of the international law courses I took. My advice for the bar exam is simple---take a prep course and give your ALL to it for those two months you are studying which means significantly reducing your social life and allocating all of that time to studying for the bar.

I'd also recommend a bar prep course during law school. It will help prepare you in advance for what studying for the bar actually means, and it will show you what an MBE question and bar exam essay look like. Going into your main bar prep with this knowledge is helpful.

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

Where do I begin? I must say, WNEU was one of the best times of my life. It is where I achieved one of my biggest goals—to graduate from law school. I can't

say I have just one favorite part. It was just an overall great experience. But, if I had to pick something, I'd say it was a combination of the amazing faculty and friends I met along the way. I felt "at home" when I was at school, and it was because I was surrounded by people I felt comfortable and friendly with.

Overall, how well did the skills that you learned in law school transition into the legal profession upon graduating?

Law school got me off to a great start, but there is no experience like real experience. I couldn't imagine being a lawyer without having gone to law school, but the combination with real world practice is what gave me the best ability to transition.

What surprised you most about practicing?

How much I didn't know about being a real lawyer.

What has been your favorite part of being an attorney?

Making a winning argument in court.

If there were anything that you could tell current students today as advice for school, what would it be?

First, don't go a semester or summer without a job or an internship. Second, make law school what you want it to be. Take classes that are of interest to you. If you want to work somewhere that is not listed on the school's database, don't worry about it. Go there, speak with a person of authority, and figure out how you can get in. When it comes to law school, the sky is the limit as far as opportunities go. Even if something sounds unlikely, go for it anyway. You may be surprised!

Springfield Feels The Bern

By Chelsea Donaldson

On October 3, 2015, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders made a stop in Springfield as a part of his campaign for President. Senator Sanders spoke for an hour to an audience of over 5,000 Springfield and western Massachusetts residents about everything from raising the minimum wage to mandatory paid maternal leave. He began his speech with a rousing claim that the United States required a “political revolution,” insisting that the United States government needed to work for the people instead of for the rich upper class.

Senator Sanders, as politicians are wont to do, focused his discussion on issues that were pertinent to the citizens of Springfield. He spoke at length

of the disappearing middle class, stating that the American poor needed to stop supporting the American elite with unfair tax brackets and cuts. Much of his speech concerned breaking up the big banks and holding Wall Street accountable for the financial meltdown that occurred in the mid-2000s, a meltdown (in Senator Sanders’ opinion) that has not been fully rectified. Senator Sanders also reflected upon the recent struggles with Congress’ numerous attempts to defund Planned Parenthood, an organization that provides high quality low cost healthcare to millions of women across

the country, stating that women had a right to choose

whether or not to carry a pregnancy to term. Another popular topic among students in the audience was the subject of the student loan debt crisis, a bubble Senator Sanders argues will cause catastrophic effects upon the U.S. economy once popped.

Nationwide, Senator Sanders has been doing (to some) surprisingly well in the polls. A main rival to former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, Senator Sanders promises far-reaching reform in the criminal justice system, housing, healthcare, and university.

In Springfield, these topics are of great concern. Judging from the cheering throughout the evening, Senator Sanders has at least 5,000 votes in his favor come the primary season.



Entertainment & Technology Law Conference

Sports and Entertainment Law Society



From left to right: Alex Mazzella, Kedar Ismail, Sara Tarabocchia, Iman Farimani, & Kevin Rogers

The group's first event this year was The Entertainment & Technology Law Conference in New York City on September 29, 2015. The three-part symposium exposed SELS members to various legal issues, including trademarks and recovering royalties for artists. The symposium also discussed current lawsuits against major radio broadcasting companies. The event provided a networking opportunity for SELS students to connect with professionals with expertise in various levels of entertainment law.

Sports and Entertainment Law Society (SELS) is a student organization with two primary purposes. First, to expose students to relevant legal issues in both sports and entertainment. Second, to provide guidance to law students pursuing a career in one of these respective fields.

E-Board: Kedar Ismail, 2L (President); Philip McPherson, 1L (Vice President of Sports); Iman Farimani, 1L (Vice President of Entertainment); Alex Rudiak, 1L (Secretary); Kevin Rogers, 1L (Representative)

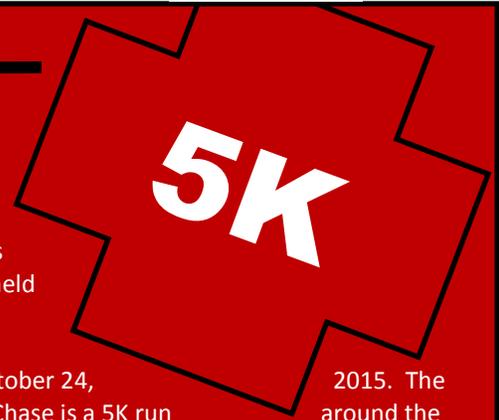
Continuing through November, SELS will host Football Nights; general meetings followed by watching a football game in the Law School Common. All are welcome to attend!

By: Brittany Hinojosa

AMBULANCE CHASE

SBA Charities Committee

By: Brittany Hinojosa



The Charities Committee held its annual Ambulance Chase on October 24,

2015. The Ambulance Chase is a 5K run around the WNEU Campus that benefits the Springfield Ronald McDonald House. The run gives awards for best female and male times. The Charities Committee is a regular standing committee of the Student Bar Association (SBA) whose purpose is to give the law school and its students an opportunity to give back to local charities. The goal is to benefit the community by raising proceeds for local charities and bringing awareness to the particular causes. The driving success of the Committee has been made possible by generous donations from law students, faculty, the community, and local organizations and businesses who share the same charitable goals as the Charities Committee.

The Committee has meetings at the law school periodically throughout the school year that are announced by e-mail, flyers, and social media. Everybody is welcome to attend the meetings, participate in the fun, and offer ideas for future events.

Committee Members:

Amy Russo, 3L; Mary Simeoli, 3L; & Sarah Murphy, 2L



Top: Tim Rucki, 1L (left) had the best male time at the Ambulance Chase this year. Taylor McLane (right) won best female time.

Bottom: The Ambulance Chase had 14 chasers/racers this year. The Charities Committee proudly raised \$268 for the Springfield Ronald McDonald House.



This coming spring, the Committee holds its annual Pool Tournament at Smith's Billiards, the proceeds of which go to Friends of the Homeless in Springfield

Phi Alpha Delta District XX Conference Meets

By: Sarah Coli, Class of 2015

The Middleton Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International, hosted the District XX Conference at Western New England University, School of Law on October 17, 2015. The Middleton Chapter Executive Board was proud to be chosen to host this year's conference, and welcomed distinguished visitors Honorable Kimberly Gallant, International Board Member and Jennifer Remare, District XVIII Justice. During the Conference, District Justice William Davenport updated fraternity members from the Middleton and Madison Chapters on the state of the fraternity and of upcoming event updates within the organization.

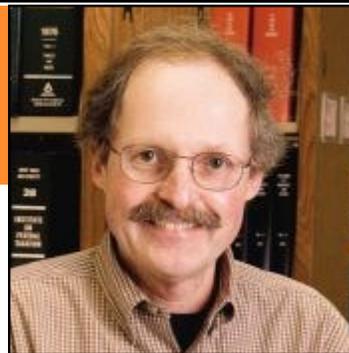
One such update is the changing of the governing documents of the Fraternity. The PAD executive office obtained an opinion from outside counsel who reviewed the Fraternity's Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws. This opinion highlighted several shortcomings within the governing documents due to them not being revised in more than fifty years, and informed the executive office that these documents are not in compliance with Illinois law. To address these shortcomings, the International Executive Board is seeking to revise all of the governing documents by creating a Restated Articles of Incorporation and new Corporate Bylaws. The International Executive Board and several key volunteers are currently working on these revisions, and plan to present them for a vote at the biannual convention in August 2016. The proposed changes will be released to membership to review in February 2016, so that members are familiar with the changes and can submit comments prior to voting in August.

District Justice Davenport also promoted the biannual convention being held on August 3-7, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia. The convention has been moved from Scottsdale, Arizona to Arlington for the first time, and District Justice Davenport is extremely excited to invite all PAD brothers and sisters to attend this event. Registration is still open, and early bird registration discounts are still available. There are also several alumni provided scholarships for law students to attend this event.

The District Conference wrapped up with the Middleton Chapter Initiation, where we welcomed fifteen new brothers and sisters into our Fraternity. The initiation was followed by a welcome reception held at Smith's Billiards in downtown Springfield.



BRUCE MILLER



Name: Professor Miller

Began practicing: Fall of 1969

Where was your first job?

My first job was in D.C. at the General Counsel's office at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Since then, the Department of Education was established and the remainder of the Department became Health and Human Services. I was there from the Fall of 1969 to the Fall of 1971.

What did you do ?

Two areas. In the beginning I was in the Civil Rights division. The job was mainly to enforce school desegregation. Part of it fell to our department (Health Education and Welfare) because the Civil Rights Act of 1964 required school districts to comply with *Brown v. Board* in order to get federal education money. It had a major impact on compliance with desegregation because schools knew if they did not take steps to not have racially identifiable schools then they wouldn't get significant money for budgets. The threat of losing money was a big incentive for compliance.

After that I was in the Higher Ed branch. Work there was very different.

In what way was work at the Higher Ed branch different?

I wasn't working on desegregation anymore. The issues were different. Those days were the Nixon Administration. Nixon was president when I started. He wasn't very happy with the massive student demonstrations against Vietnam. He wanted to make it impossible for those students to get federal aid. One of our jobs, as the people who provided legal advice to the Secretary of HEW, was to tell them they couldn't do that because it would violate the Constitution. It was interesting for me to see the senior attorneys be able to stand up to the White House. You know, it was fun.

I also worked on the guaranteed student loan program which was just getting off the ground. I was there for two years and it was a great experience because I had really great mentoring from career government lawyers who were very good at what they did. And who were very good at cutting through dicey terrain of law and politics.

How did the mentoring happen?

People who were senior to me who I worked with set a very good example of professionalism and gave me an awful lot of freedom as a new attorney. It was just a very good balance. Many of those people went as far back as the Truman Administration and a couple went back to the FDR Administration.

What impact did those mentoring relationships have on you?

Two really important impacts.

One, I got some confidence in myself in making responsible judgments. My mentors were very encouraging and gave me belief in myself. They treated me as though they believed in me. They also gave me good feedback so I felt like I got better. So after two years I had better confidence to handle situations as an attorney.

The second impact was that I had a lasting pool of contacts within that department that were extraordinarily helpful to me when I started my new job. I didn't know when I left, but for my next job, all the people I knew at HEW were great sources of contacts and information— they were people I could go back to. So that's the main thing that first job did for me.

The next thing I did during those two years I actually saved a good amount of money. I went to law school on loans but loans were like \$7,000. Tuition my first year was something like \$1,400. My first salary was \$11,800 and when I finished it was \$13,500. Compare that to the highest salaried new attorneys at Cravath (a big firm in New York)—they hiked salaries to \$15,000. So here I'm in the public interest sector and I don't feel like I was taking a hit at all.

I lived cheaply. Rent was \$200 so I was able to pay my loans off and save \$5,000 or \$6,000. So I took a year off and traveled Europe. That was basically a few months camping. When I came back I got to do what I wanted to do (in law school), which was work in legal services. The HEW job had just sort of come along and was too easy not to take, and I thought it would be worth it, but I really wanted to work in legal services for the poor. I got a job at a brand new legal services support center in California (where I grew up), called the National Senior Citizens Law Center. The organization was part of the then called OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) Legal Services. It was started in the Kennedy Administration and was expanded in the Johnson Administration. They made grants to community organizations to do advocacy for communities.

The most important part of OEO was legal services. All local legal services organizations like Community Legal Aid, here in Springfield originally came out of OEO. Another thing OEO did was to provide support by establishing back-up centers focused on particular issues or client groups; e.g. my program, National Health Law, Employment Law Center, Housing Law etc. all located around the country. They had two main goals. First, to provide support and assistance to attorneys in local legal aid programs. Second, to bring what we used to call "impact cases." They were cases designed to change the law and make it more favorable to poor people.

The inspiration came from NAACP's Legal Defense Fund which eventually litigated *Brown v. Board* and continues to exist and do impact civil rights work today. Probably the best model we had for our support centers was the Welfare Law Center in New York which brought the *Goldberg v. Kelly* case about rights under due process for welfare recipients to advance notice and hearing before benefits could be reduced and/or terminated. It was a SCOTUS decision from 1969/1970.

So when I was there it was the time of my life. A paid salary to file lawsuits designed to change law. The main area I worked in was private pensions; I was there for 8 years

there from 1972-1980 working on private pension impact litigation and SSI and Social Security as well. When we first opened I was the second most senior person in the office; that's how young we were. I had way more responsibility than I deserved to bring cases and run these cases. But eventually, I had a group of wonderful colleagues to work with. We lost far more than we won but had a wonderful time working on those cases. I got experience litigating federal cases and got an opportunity to work with attorneys across the country.

So the number of friendships and colleagues that developed over the years was amazing. In fact, while I was there I worked with Peter Benjamin, the Litigation Director of Community Legal Aid here in western, MA. So that was the work I was doing. I mention the contacts for SSI and Social Security— I needed to have contacts from HEW that were willing to take my calls about what the government was doing. The folks I met at HEW were a great source of information to me as a poverty lawyer. So that's where I was from 1972-1980 and I had a great time.

How did the exposure there help you outside of the legal experience?

I felt like I was part of a community of attorneys; part of a social movement who used the legal system to address problems of poverty. That was very satisfying. I also met my wife. The job was great professional development but also I knew it was possible to be a happy lawyer— extremely satisfying. It was very useful but also in line with my basic values. I also was able to keep playing sports. I always wanted to be able to keep playing basketball. We played in the LA Lawyers League. We had a great time. The night after my first daughter was born we had a game and I brought back Mexican food to the hospital.

I felt like I was living an integrated life. There was balance between work and non-work. Work was intense but not all consuming. The people my wife and I hung out with tended to be work friends and we did a lot of stuff together. It was not conscious networking; it was the environment we were in. It was a unified, integrated lifestyle with politics, law and fun all mixed together. This was what happened up to 1980. ■

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EASY

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Difficulty Level:

HARD

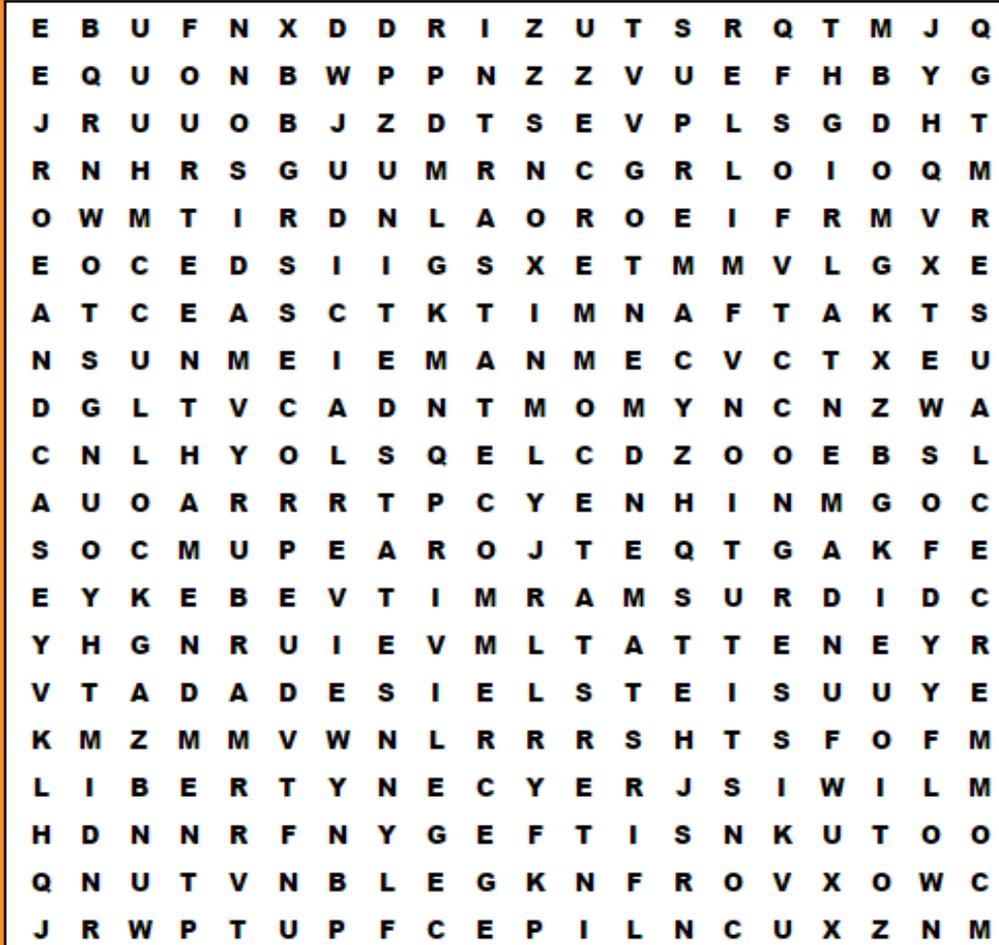
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SEE ANSWER KEY PAGE 17

Your Fundamental Right To Word Search

Exercise your fundamental right to search for words in this edition's constitutional law inspired word search!



- MILLER
- DUE PROCESS
- WOLF
- INTRASTATE COMMERCE
- CONSTITUTION
- FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT
- MARBURY V MADISON
- YOUNGSTOWN
- FIRST AMENDMENT
- CONGRESS
- SUPREMACY
- PRIVILEGE
- FLYNN
- INTERSTATE COMMERCE
- JUDICIAL REVIEW
- NIXON
- MCCULLOCK
- LIBERTY
- ROE AND CASEY
- COMMERCE CLAUSE

A Tortious Word Scramble

Be a reasonably prudent person and unscramble the words below!

1. NNCILEGEGE _____
2. ERS APSI ULQTIURO _____
3. TTRSIC LIILYITBA _____
4. DSRAREEFRTN NTETNI _____
5. TNEADSEPOR ORRESIUP _____
6. TYRTBAE _____
7. TSAUSLA _____
8. NLGGCEEENI PRE ES _____
9. IOJTN ADN AESLREV TLBYILAI _____
10. EMICAAVPTRO AFLTU _____

ANSWER KEY ON PAGE 17

From The

Editor's Desk

This month Lex Brevis focused on the theme of mentoring. Mentoring can be seen as a broad concept encompassing both a professional nature and a more personal nature. As law students, we are at a fortunate place in life where if we take advantage of the various access points to the legal profession, we can find mentors. I strongly believe we, as students, must make ourselves receptive to being mentored. Whether it is by reaching out to professors, attorneys at work and law firms or by taking advantage of networking opportunities.

Sometimes just talking to a judge, attorney or another person in the legal field over time can turn into a mentoring relationship. From my experience, mentoring relationships are fluid and often without boundaries clearly defining the person as your mentor. One of my closest mentoring relationships came from working for my mentor and seeking to learn more about the court system. I asked a lot of questions and took the initiative to ask for work— showing an interest and it paid off. I say this not to tout what I have done but to encourage other students to take advantage of your position as a student.

Additionally, as law students, we have the opportunity to serve as mentors to other law students and younger people. My dad has often said to me “It’s not what you have, but what you do with what you have.” One way to apply this saying is that though we do not have much experience in the legal profession there may be a younger person interested in law school who could benefit from advice you can give them. As important as it is to look forward and keep focused on our own professional goals, it is equally important to reach back and acknowledge that most of us did not get here on our own. As we take advice and guidance from those ahead of us, we must reach back and give a hand to those coming behind us.

“Hold the door open for the person behind you. Mentor and be mentored.”

Your Editor,

Amara



EVICTION WITHIN PUBLIC HOUSING

HOW WE CAN HELP



The issue of eviction is a complicated one. It is stigmatized (“why don’t people just pay their rent?”), legally complicated (how does one get evicted, anyway?), and most importantly, widespread. The housing market crash in 2008 has had a catastrophic effect on poor residents in the United States. While the national media has depicted the housing crisis as improving, there is still a crisis within our local community. There is an eviction epidemic in Springfield, Massachusetts.

According to the 2010 census, the number of Springfield’s vacant units, which include single family homes, apartments, and condos, rose 22% from the last census. While the numbers include those homes that are currently for sale or rent, abandoned units made up 2.6% of all available residential properties in Springfield.

The foreclosure crisis has had a long-lasting impact upon the city of Springfield. Many neighborhoods look like ghost towns, boarded up and closed due to foreclosures by large banks that turn a profit on their losses. Foreclosure negatively impacts neighborhood property values; after all, who wants to move into a neighborhood with a bunch of boarded up houses? The Alliance for a Just Society, an economic grassroots organization, published a report in 2013 noting that for every 7% a foreclosed home value drops, their neighbor’s home falls 1% simply by being in the same area. The average decline of a foreclosed home’s property value is between 22-28%.

There has been little advancement in terms of legislative action for tenants evicted by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, neither in terms of preventative measures against eviction nor in terms of legislative remedies to protect and assist struggling homeowners. Numerous activist groups (such as Springfield No One Leaves and Arise For Social Justice) have demanded protections for individuals who were locked into unconscionable loan agreements without room for modification on both the state and federal level. Despite such efforts, Springfield homeowners are still

being sent out onto the streets for the same bad loans that made national headlines just seven years ago. There is little relief for these people, and while attorneys and activist groups are fighting tooth and nail to effect some change, results take time.

In short, Springfield residents are overworked and underpaid. Some are forced into foreclosure or into public housing – and some, even then, cannot afford the rent required by Springfield Housing Authority. When I initially began researching eviction within Springfield, I was surprised to find that those in public housing, too, face eviction due to nonpayment (even though public housing is built on the principle of “income-based housing”). Many of the tenants in public housing work two or three jobs in order to make ends meet. Many of the tenants in public housing have children who require care. Many of the tenants in public housing are disabled or elderly and have nowhere else to go. Yet, these individuals are being evicted from their last housing option due to a lack of payment. Since there is a large Springfield population that is facing extreme injustice in housing, I founded the Housing Discrimination Outreach Project through the WNEU Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, a program directed specifically to tenants facing eviction from public housing.

Many individuals are not aware of their rights when facing eviction. One such right is to transfer an eviction proceeding to Housing Court (which is located in Springfield next to the Hampden County Hall of Justice on Elm Street). This transfer is helpful to pro se tenants because the Housing Court gives them access to a resource room with eviction related legal resources and materials. Unfortunately for tenants, most evictions (including those filed by the Springfield Housing Authority) are filed in the District Court (located next to the Housing Court, within the Hampden County Hall of Justice), which does not provide the same type of legal resources.

.....Continued on Page 16

Closing Arguments Continued from Page 15 ...

The formation of the Housing Court also allows for both tenants and landlords to work within a space specifically designed for housing relating matters. Overall, the Housing Court is a priceless resource for both landlords and tenants to argue their sides in a court of law that was built to work specifically for them.

When I discovered that many tenants housed in public housing were having their eviction cases filed in District Court rather than Housing Court, I decided that my time was best spent educating tenants in Springfield public housing of their right to transfer. For the past six months, the Housing Discrimination Outreach Project has been educating public housing tenants on their right to transfer from District Court to Housing Court and of their general rights in the eviction process. As a result, tenants have begun to organize themselves in order to spread awareness and information. Additionally, many tenants have begun to transfer themselves before my project has reached them. Overall, the project has been extraordinarily successful and I like to think that we have helped many people obtain a fair chance to tell their side of the story, regardless of whether or not they are represented. Even more so, it has been rewarding.

When speaking with tenants facing eviction from public housing, I am often told stories of frustration, outrage, and hopelessness. I have been told stories of being evicted for less than \$200 after a perfect payment record. I have transferred individuals who had no idea that their case was being filed in the District Court, individuals who had assumed that they were placed in Housing Court and who nearly missed their court date as a result. I have been introduced to everyone from single moms to ex-cons to recovering drug addicts. Overall, though, I have been introduced to people who require help. I have been fortunate enough to be able to offer them a slight amount of solace in a tumultuous time, but it doesn't solve the eviction crisis that Springfield is currently going through. The Housing Discrimination Outreach Project certainly doesn't solve poverty in Springfield, nor does it change the fact that tenants are being evicted in the first place. However, the most important part of activ-

ism (particularly legal activism) is creating awareness of the law and remedies available under the law. If one tenant is more aware of their rights today than they were yesterday, then we have done our job as both activists and advocates.

Author's Note: If you would like to join the fight against eviction in Springfield via The Housing Discrimination Outreach Project, please contact Chelsea Donaldson at chelsea.donaldson@wne.edu. We need your help, now more than ever, to keep families in their homes.

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 2 - 12:

The WNEU Chapter of BLSA will be hosting its annual Apparel Sale in the café hallway. Sale times: Mon: 10:30 am—6pm, Tues: 10am—4pm & 6pm—8pm, Wed: 10:30am—6pm, and Thurs: 10am—5:45pm.

Wednesday, November 11:

The WNEU chapter of BLSA will be hosting a "What NOT to wear" fashion show. It will be held from 4:00pm—6:00 pm in the commons area.

Academic Calendar: Fall 2015

Friday, November 6:

Last Day for Applying for Degrees to be awarded in February

Wednesday, November 25-27:

School Closed for Thanksgiving Recess

Friday, December 4:

Last Day to Withdraw/Last Day of Classes

Saturday, December 5-8:

Study Period for Final Exams

Wednesday, December 9-18:

Final Examinations

EASY

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

HARD

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

WORD SCRAMBLE:

NEGLIGENCE

RES IPSA LOQUITUR

STRICT LIABILITY

TRANSFERRED INTENT

RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR

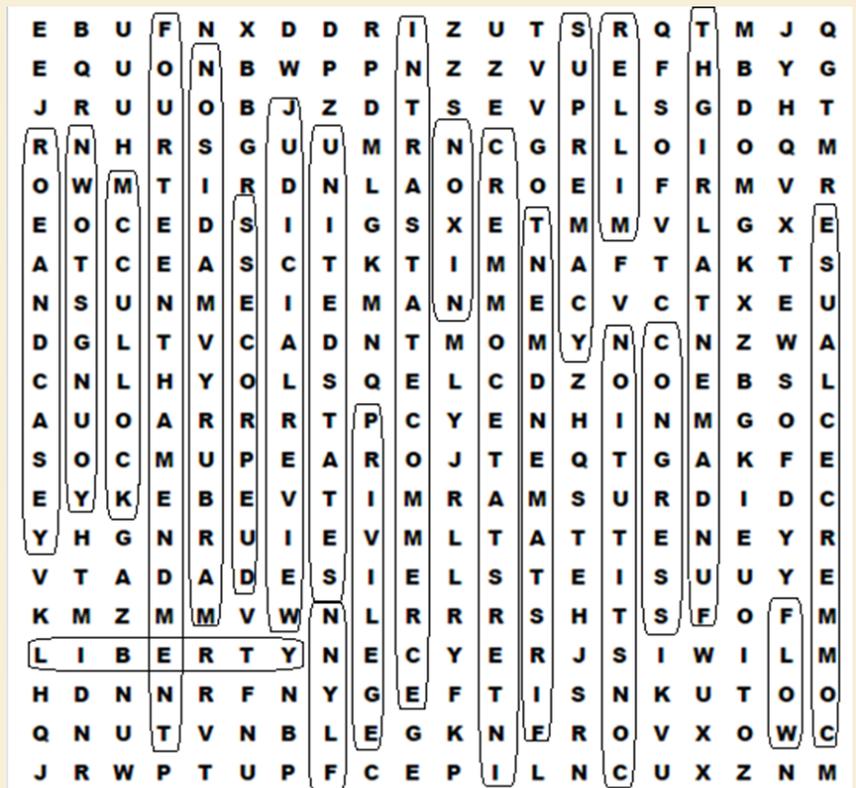
BATTERY

ASSAULT

NEGLIGENCE PER SE

JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY

COMPARATIVE FAULT



MENTORING

SPOTLIGHT ON

Name: Judge Charles Groce III
Graduation Year: 1997
Work: Springfield District Court, Judge

What did you want to do/practice while you were in law school?

I am originally from Connecticut but I was living in NYC and I was trying to make it in the entertainment industry. I wanted to do sports and entertainment law; the contracts etc. Out of college I worked in social services, drug treatment, battered women. I knew law school would give me the platform to help people but I also still wanted to work in entertainment law.

What did you do while you were in law school?

I worked at the law library and was also a Research Assistant under Professor Leonard Baynes whose specialty was the FCC. I was a Research Assistant in my first year and then I got a job for local attorney, Perman Glenn, as a Law Clerk.

What was that like?

I sit here today only because of Perman. Almost everything I learned, the look, the atti-

tude, networking, connections, everything I have I learned from Perman. He was a good delegator. He wasn't afraid to try stuff (if you had talent). Also, he put it on you to figure stuff out. He made it so he wasn't solving problems for you. I worked well in that environment. It was a good personal experience. I also met my wife through him. Perman could have been the first Black mayor of Springfield, he was that charismatic.

He was ahead of his time— very saavy as far as business. Rose [Judge Groce's wife] worked



File photo by Michael S. Gordon/ The Republican

for him. One thing I really learned from him— he was adamant about how important it was to have young African Americans in his office— being an African American in the legal community. That is something I got from him and even when I was in private practice I tried to make sure

I had young African Americans in my office as interns and it's something I'm focused on even now.

How did you meet Attorney Glenn?

First at his house, at a party he was throwing. I heard there was going to be a party at this house in Northampton and it turned out to be his house. He walked us around all night and talked about things we could experience , etc.

Then six months later, I was working in the law library and Pat Newcombe said there was an attorney that needed help. That day he offered me a job. He asked if I owned a suit. I went and bought one. He said I had to get a haircut— I had dreadlocks. It broke my heart.

He offered me an Associate position upon graduation. People he introduced me to professionally and personally, people in my life now that are like family, guided and influenced me. In the most literal sense I owe him my life. I didn't really know what I was going to do but the good news is you don't have to have it all figured out. Any opportunity I had, I put my best foot forward. I believe in fundamentals of being a good person and I was fortunate it all worked out.

How do you feel about mentoring?

I believe mentoring is critical. The first mentors I had were my parents, Charles Groce, Jr. and Brenda. They gave me guidance and correction. Being a mentor is responding, giving guidance, correcting a person, etc. My grandparents, Charles Sr. and Barbara, were also mentors to me. In college I was mentored by Professor Noel Cazanave at the University of Connecticut. He would always tell me "you can achieve something special." And then when I got out of school, Professor John Britton, a professor at University of Connecticut School of Law, also mentored me. He became Dean at Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Texas but he is now at the University of the District of Columbia School of Law. These men were all mentors to me. All the men I was exposed to, I received guidance and correction from. The most important thing I learned from these men is that it's not what you do but how you do it and how you present yourself. I believe these are

universal principles you can apply to anything.

In District Court, the majority of the people are here because of bad attitudes that lead to poor choices that lead to bad outcomes. I'm talking about things we see on a daily basis. If you want to do a health and well-

ness check on a community then go and sit in on the District Court, because it is the court of the people.

I was also receptive to being mentored. In addition to having people who want to be your mentor, you need to be receptive to being mentored. I was raised in a home where I was taught to respect my elders so I was receptive to being mentored. It's more about being tuned in so it happens naturally.

You do have to be proactive in looking for mentors. Sometimes in life a mentor finds you, sometimes you have to find them. Another important thing to keep in mind is a mentor does not have to look like you. Being a Black male is important to me so having Black males as mentors was important to me but I have had mentors who are not male and are not Black. For example Judge Page, an African American female, has been a mentor; she guided my career, watched me grow, etc.

Judge Carhart, a White male, was also equally influential on my career. Attorneys John and Linda Thompson, a White couple, who are fantastic people and great mentors to me. I can't even measure the impact they have had on me and my family.

Finally, I've never limited myself. First and foremost, I am a human being. That's the key. You find a fellow human you connect with who can be your mentor. You don't need to limit yourself. None of us can figure this out on our own. Mentorship is a key component to success. ■

It's not what you do but how you do it and how you present yourself

None of us can figure this out on our own. Mentorship is a key component to success.

LEX | BREVIS

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

STAFF

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