

# Lex Breviis

Volume 37, Issue 3

Western New England College School of Law, Springfield, Massachusetts

February, 2009

## 34th Annual WNEC Law Invitational Basketball Tournament, Feb. 13-15

**Marcy Spratt, 3L**

The 34th Annual Western New England College School of Law Invitational Basketball Tournament will take place February 13-15, 2009 at the Alumni Healthful Living Center. The tournament is a cherished tradition hosted and organized by student volunteers as part of the Student Bar Association's Athletics Committee. This year we welcome 13 law schools from all-over the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and New England.

Over the course of the three-day tournament over 80 games will be played by teams consisting of current law students and alumni. In addition to the games, the Committee sponsors two social events where players and fans are invited to a Springfield-area pub to relax and recharge with a complimentary buffet and take the opportunity to get to know the other participants off the court. The Committee also seeks food and monetary donations from area restaurants so that we may provide lunch to the players on Saturday, February 14, as the amount of games played by each team rarely allows for time to head out for lunch.

This year's tournament has been organized by Jon Longobardi and Marcy Spratt, Co-Chairs of the Athletics Committee. Although much planning and leg-work has already gone into launching this year's tournament, it will take the volunteerism of many more students to execute these plans. All students are invited



to contact either Co-Chair or a member of the SBA to find out how you can get involved in this year's tournament - whether you can help with registration on Friday the 13th, keep score during the games at any point over the

three days, or would like to help set-up for lunch on Saturday - your help is essential to ensuring the optimal success of a very unique and cherished tradition at the law school.

We also invite all students and faculty to stop by and take in a game or join us at the social events on Friday and Saturday. This is an opportunity to develop relationships with law students and alumni from other schools while participating in this great tradition. We hope you can join us at this year's tournaments. For more information on how you can help, please contact Jon Longobardi ([jonlongobardi@gmail.com](mailto:jonlongobardi@gmail.com)) or Marcy Spratt ([marcy.spratt@gmail.com](mailto:marcy.spratt@gmail.com)).

## The Ambulance Chase 5K (3.1 mile) Run/Walk

presented by the SBA Charities Committee

**Saturday April 18, 2009 10:00 a.m. @  
the S. Prestley Blake Law Center**

*All proceeds go to*

**Open Pantry Community Services, Inc. of Springfield**

# Morality and Punishment in the “Webscape” of Our Lives - Part I

**Anka Mason, 2L**

From a casual empirical standpoint, it goes without saying that the advances in technology over the last fifteen to twenty years have created astounding opportunities for redefining how we connect and communicate with each other within society. The internet, for example, allows us to work, shop, educate ourselves and others, as well as connect in friendship, romance, or for other social reasons. And as human beings engaged in these activities, we undoubtedly bring our unique behavioral and emotional codes and expectations into the mix. It is within this framework that new and interesting issues regarding morality and punishment arise, especially with respect to social networks and relationships built and maintained through internet interaction. For example, consider the following questions: What’s wrong with breaking up with someone through email or on their Facebook page? What’s wrong with smearing someone via an internet blog after a bad date or relationship? What’s wrong with following someone’s daily life on a social networking site? What’s wrong with deciding that a thirteen-year-old on the “outs” with someone close to you, say, your daughter, deserves to be humiliated via MySpace? Finally, what happens when, as a result of any of the foregoing scenarios, there are unanticipated, tragic consequences?

In the minds of some, the answer to the last question may lie within the realm of criminal law and be closely associated with phrases like “social harm,” and “community-enforced moral condemnation.” Still, others may feel that perhaps the answer is somewhere within the realm of civil liability, perhaps a flavor of emotional distress. Or the answer may even be a combination of the

two. In any event, the reality is that the development of the technology and our collective embrace of and attachment to the same for social purposes has simply outpaced the development of social, moral, behavioral, civil or criminal codes to deal with bad results. There is no better example of this than the case of Lori Drew, the now forty-nine year old woman found guilty of federal misdemeanor computer fraud violations in connection with the set-up of a fake MySpace account under the name “Josh Evans.” The fake account was used to lure thirteen-year-old Megan Meier into believing that she was the object of “Evan’s” affections. According to witness accounts, once Megan was hooked, the plan was to “pull the plug” on the relationship and humiliate her in the process. Megan was humiliated. Megan hung herself. It was weeks after Megan’s death and only through parties in the community but not involved in the hoax, that Tina Meier, Megan’s mom, learned the truth behind “Josh Evans” and the messages that ultimately drove her daughter to take her own life. There is a foundation set up in Megan’s name and a website for the same that one can visit to get the full account as told by Tina Meier (<http://www.meganmeierfoundation.org/>).

Should morally reprehensible internet/social-network behavior that leads to a bad result like the suicide of Megan Meier be punishable? Does this type of online behavior really differ from bad, real-time behavior? To answer these questions, one may want to consider the Drew case discussed above and in doing so, think about the steps that Lori Drew would have had to have taken if computers and the internet-based social networking sites did not exist. Certainly Drew would have had to find a way to deliver correspondence from “Josh Evans” to Megan. She would have possibly had to enlist the assistance of others (something she did even with the computer and MySpace account). Perhaps the possibility of discovering the hoax sooner would have been greater. In other words, what internet-based social networks may provide is an ease and convenience, if not more of a shield of anonymity that ultimately works in favor of the bad actor in a scenario such as this. Perhaps for this

reason, new moral standards and codes as well as forms of punishment are needed.

Patrick Devlin, in his essay titled *The Enforcement of Morals*, states, “Every moral judgment, unless it claims a divine source, is simply a feeling that no right-minded man could behave in any other way without admitting that he was doing wrong. It is the power of common sense and not the power of reason that is behind the judgments of society.” To be sure, and again, from a casually empirical standpoint, most people surveyed by this writer found it morally reprehensible that a woman of forty-six would hatch a scheme to humiliate a thirteen-year-old. These people also found it distressing that Lori Drew was aware that Megan Meier suffered from depression, issues with low self-esteem, and ADHD. And recall, Megan died without ever knowing that the whole thing was a hoax. Megan reasonably relied on an emotional connection with a boy on an internet-based social networking site; a connection that was nothing more than a fiction. According to Orin Kerr, a member of Drew’s defense team (info available on his blog at [http://volokh.com/archives/archive\\_2008](http://volokh.com/archives/archive_2008)) the jury in the case found Drew guilty of relatively lower-level, misdemeanor crimes for violating MySpace’s Terms of Service related to being involved in the setting up of a fake MySpace account. Drew was acquitted of the felony count of computer fraud in connection with the intentional infliction of emotional distress, the tortious act the government alleged led to Meier’s suicide causing Megan’s death. The jury was simply not convinced of Drew’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt regarding the more serious felony charges. On January 8, 2009, the federal judge in the case heard oral arguments on the de-

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# Annual WNEC Law 5k Ambulance Chase

**Sara Fawk, 2L**

Mark your calendars now for this popular spring event! The 2009 WNEC Law 5k "Ambulance Chase" will be held on Saturday April 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. This year all proceeds will benefit Open Pantry Community Services, Inc. of Springfield, MA, a not-for-profit organization that works to "improve the quality of life" for those who are "hungry, homeless, or disadvantaged" via programs such as the Emergency Food Pantry, Loaves and Fishes Kitchen, and the Jefferson Avenue Shelter (visit [www.openpantry.org](http://www.openpantry.org)).

This year our cause reflects the fact that there are people less fortunate than ourselves who are in need of the basic necessities of food and shelter. Additionally, there are organizations like Open Pantry that

need help in providing these necessities. Walking or running in the 5k is a great opportunity to give back to the Springfield community.

The race is 5 kilometers or about 3.1 miles around the WNEC campus. If you choose to walk, the route will be shorter. The registration fee is \$15.00, which includes an Ambulance Chase t-shirt (please note that if you do not register at least one week in advance of Chase Day, then you are not guaranteed the size t-shirt that you request in your registration materials). On the day of the race, the registration fee will increase to \$20.00. The fee will be your donation to Open Pantry, but you are encouraged to get more donations from friends and family to add to your entrance fee. Also, you do not need to run or walk in the race to participate in raising donations.

And to really inspire efforts in raising

donations, new this year, prizes will be offered to the people with the top three highest donation amounts!

First place: one pair of Boston Red Sox tickets (value \$60); \$75 gift card to the Holyoke Mall.

Second Place: \$50 gift card to the WNEC bookstore and \$25 itunes gift card.

Third Place: \$25 itunes gift card and \$25 gift card to the WNEC bookstore.

More information including registration packets will be available in the upcoming months! If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering (rather than running or walking), please email [ambulance-chase@gmail.com](mailto:ambulance-chase@gmail.com).

## Morality and Punishment, cont'd...

fense's motion to set aside the jury verdict. As of this writing, the issue is still being decided. Sentencing for Lori Drew is scheduled for April 30, 2009. It is an unprecedented case as, according to Kerr, the jury's finding in this case would now make it a crime to violate a website's terms

of service agreement. Additionally, it is certainly arguable that the jury, allowed to hear the details of what transpired including the suicide, decided the case on their sense of morality and the bad result of Drew's immoral, yet for now at least, legal, online behavior. Is the jury correct? Should the case have survived a motion to dismiss?

In part II, we will take a look at whether the law is really equipped to set the standards for online behavior and what that will mean for those involved in the business of creating and maintaining social networking sites.

## New CASA Student Volunteers Sworn In

**Bernardo Cuadra, 2L**

**Sara Fawk, 2L**

The WNEC School of Law, SBA Charities Committee, and the Family Law Association would like to congratulate the seven WNEC Law students recently sworn-in as Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers on January 22, 2009 – Falguni Patel, 2L; Vanoli Chander, 2L; Kristin Escalona, 1L; Maria Korotchenko, 1L; Shalmi Rajan, 1L; Chad Greiner, 2L; and Lindsay McDonnell, 1L. The Honorable Daniel J. Swords, First Justice of the Hampden County Juvenile Court, presided over the ceremony in the J. Gerard Pellegrini Moot Court Room; a to-

(continued on page 4)



Photos courtesy of CASA Hampden County

# Who Says You Can't Trust a Lawyer?

**Kelli Robbins, 2L**

I had just finished my last final of the semester, glad to be done and looking forward to a bit of a break. The night air was crisp and there was frost on the windshield. It was the kind of frost that is too thin to scrape but too thick to see through. Tossing my stuff on the front seat I waited patiently for the car to heat up. While waiting I chatted with another student. I began the trek home. The forty-five minute ride was uneventful. There was ample time to fret about what I had forgotten to put on the test.

By the time I pulled into the driveway my thoughts had turned to matters of home and teenagers. As I opened my car door and grabbed for my things I saw that the only thing on the front seat was my purse. After searching the car for my book bag the reality of what I

had done struck home. I left the book bag in the parking lot at the school.

That's right folks. Talk about being burnt from exams. I had left my book bag including not only books, but my laptop, Palm Pilot, debit card, ID, and more sitting beside the car where I was parked, out in the open parking lot. The ride back to the school that night was no longer filled with thoughts of exams and teenagers but with panic about losing things I could not afford to replace.

When I arrived back at the school around midnight the parking lot was empty, as I had expected. I found one of the WNEC campus police and filed a report. He was nice enough to let me into the school to see if it had been turned in; everyone had gone home for the night with no bag in sight.

The following Monday I received a call from WNEC PD that my bag had been turned into the law school. When I arrived at the campus Christmas Eve, everything

was there, including some cash I didn't even know I had. The campus police were kind and professional.

The reason for relating this adventure to the school is that earlier this year a couple of laptops were stolen. A wave of disgust went through the school community and there was much talk regarding how something like this could have happened. The fact that we are a law school shakes our core even more than if we were another type of school. I wanted the school to know that there are very honest people who attend this school and we should not pass judgment regarding the stolen laptops across an entire school community. It was unfortunate but it is not the rule.

To whoever returned my bag, a heartfelt thank you. I will pay the kindness forward.

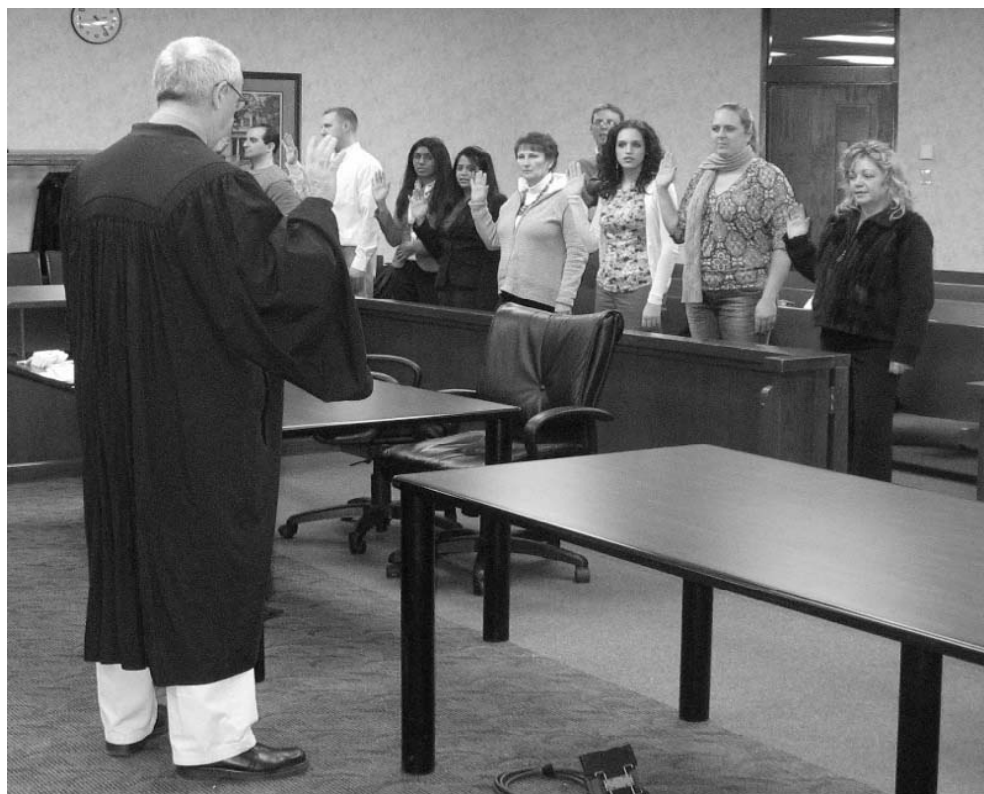
## New CASA Student Volunteers, cont'd...

tal of fifteen people became official court appointed advocates.

CASA advocates help prevent abused and neglected children from getting lost in the juvenile welfare system by advocating for their best interests before the Juvenile Court. Keith Hedlund, Program Coordinator of CASA Hampden County, expressed his gratitude: "I'm thrilled with the response of the students at the law school. They bring enormous talent to their volunteer work and they have the potential to make strong connections with the children and adolescents we work with. I anticipate that they will do very meaningful work in the lives of the children. In the process they will get quite an education about the juvenile welfare system."

The WNEC Law community commends these students for their recent achievement. These students' willingness to help others via

the judicial system is an ideal example of pro bono law at work.



# True Life: I'm in Law School, Part III

**Rachel Sposato, 2L**

In a land far, far away, the month of December represents a time of love and happiness. Family and friends gather to celebrate Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanza, birthdays, and/or engagements, fireplaces are warmly glowing, and family recipes are baking in the oven. Forlornly, in the land of law school, the month of December represents doom and torture. Students are over-stressed, over-caffeinated, underfed, and lacking sleep all in the name of finals. You, the student, swore you would be better prepared for this month, and wouldn't fall into the trap. Nevertheless, you still did.

In this edition of *True Life*, we're going to help you, the student, ring in the New Year with three Law School Resolutions that will hopefully help prevent the downhill tumbles and pitfalls experienced by the brutal beating of finals. So stand up, raise that glass of champagne, and get ready to toast in the New Year with True Life: I'm in Law School.

## (1) I Will Not Procrastinate

You had promised yourself that you'd start outlining in mid-October, but found yourself starting all the outlines over Thanksgiving Break. That stress that you had planned, with the greatest intentions, to diminish through adequate preparation is now sucking your will to live. You can't sleep, your body has either forgotten that it needs food or believes it hasn't eaten in the past decade, and you're at the level where you become agitated by a person's way of breathing. Simply put: you're on the verge of a nervous breakdown. It is imperative to acknowledge this will be the hardest resolution to institute. So simple is it to put off something that is months away and of which the mere thought induces

pain. Yet, does the latter really outweigh the former? I think not. Therefore, this semester, start outlining mid-February. Every Saturday and/or Sunday, set aside one hour to outline a portion of notes from one class. When the hour is up, you are done outlining for the day. By starting this early, and making it a weekly routine (just like going to the gym or grocery shopping), you are virtually eliminating the stress build-up that will greet others in April. Even if the outlines are not finished by April, they will be started, which is always the hardest part. Moreover, the weekly mini-refresher of the class notes might help you score some participation points in class. Last time I checked, getting a better grade was never a bad thing.

## (2) I Will Not Abuse My Body

How lovely the whimsical views of the youth who believe they are impenetrable. As finals approach, it becomes a sadistic contest to see who can best function on the fewest hours of sleep or who can subsist off a diet of coffee, Red Bull, and Power Bars. As we are not mathematicians, we forget the solution to the following equation: stress + no/limited exercise + little sleep + too many stimulants, equals a hard crash post-finals. At this juncture, we won't even begin to mention the other, more dangerous medical problems such an equation could produce (i.e. panic attacks, heart attacks, depression, ulcers, etc), but suffice to say, a hard crash is the gentle solution.

(1) This semester do not forsake the gym. One hour to yourself, even twice a week, will allow you time to recharge physically and mentally. The endorphins produced will improve your mental outlook, as well as provide a fantastic glow to the skin. (2) This semester do not forsake sleep. Your memory actually retains less information the fewer hours you sleep. By not enjoying at least 6 hours of sleep and one good REM cycle, your brain does not have time to recover and shift the information you just read from your short-term memory to your long-term memory. (3) This semester go easy on the stimulants. O.D.ing on caffeine, nicotine,

or any other stimulant of choice is not healthy from any angle. Stimulants rid your body of essential vitamins and minerals (which means you're more susceptible to becoming ill!), and can cause a severe addiction problem. Having to take three days post-finals to come down from nearly O.D.ing on caffeine is not pleasant, especially when you had hoped to spend those days out celebrating the end of finals.

## (3) I Will Not Freak Out

"I don't remember learning any of this!" "I'm going to fail." "My mind is completely saturated; I can't read anymore." Sound familiar? It's your colleagues verbally stressing over the impending finals. Does anyone think this helps the situation? Probably not. Verbally stressing is actually counter-productive. Where we think by releasing the thoughts it will cleanse the mind, we are actually tricking ourselves into believing those thoughts. Self talk: you have the power to talk yourself into or out of anything. Who knew you were that easy to persuade? Plus, we always believe the worst critics and reviews.

This semester, think positive! It sounds corny, but it actually works. Instead of going around saying you're going to fail, set a goal for yourself, such as wanting to receive an 86 on the exam. If your mind is completely saturated, go to the gym or take a nap. The mental break will rejuvenate your spirits and your mental storage unit. If you think you can, you will. As we live in reality, we're aware you'll most likely break these resolutions. If so, try to find comfort and solace in the knowledge that finals period is only two weeks long – roughly the same amount of time as your Tupperware container has been sitting in the community refrigerator.

**NOTICE TO ALL STUDENTS**

*The fridge in the cafeteria is cleaned out every Sunday around 8 P.M. Please remove all items you do not want thrown away by this time. The SBA thanks you for your cooperation.*

# Fashion Law: Timely or Trendy?

**Whitney Holovach, 1L**

Though it may seem somewhat unconventional, it is true that fashion law is an up and coming field in the legal world. Combining the areas of intellectual property, business and merchandising law, among many others, this field and the small group of lawyers currently practicing within it are rapidly becoming a global phenomenon. I stumbled upon the webpage of Jincey Lumpkin, a fashion lawyer practicing out of New York City, who works mostly with fashion designers, models and manufacturers. As a fashion lawyer, Lumpkin handles anything from Steve and Barry's filing for bankruptcy to Juicy Couture suing Victoria's Secret over their Pink Brand. To some, this may appear to be a foreign language and in actuality, it is just that. Fashion is accompanied by an international language which millions comprehend and appreciate. A prominent firm in England, Fox Williams Fashion Law Group, devotes their legal knowledge to aiding fashion companies in understanding their

rights. "Fashion can define who you are or want to be. Make no mistake, it has a powerful voice," states Fox Williams. Fashion, as well as law, is ever changing and ever growing. Thus, it seems inevitable that the two worlds would eventually merge.

So what if you want to be a fashion lawyer? Where do you begin? Joseph Gioconda, Esq., a partner at DLA Piper US LLP in New York City responsible for the Trademark Litigation practice of the firm, has recently become a big wig in the area of intellectual property within fashion law, lecturing at Yale Law School, commentating for CNN, NBC and MSNBC and drafting legislation for the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. Gioconda aids aspiring fashion lawyers by giving his top ten tips on how to break into the world of fashion law.

First, attend a law school with an excellent selection of intellectual property classes. Second, have strong knowledge in certain fundamental areas such as intellectual property, contract law, civil procedure, evidence, tax and criminal law. Gioconda believes all of these areas are extremely important to the practice. Third, spend sum-

mer internships at appropriate firms or companies where one can truly be exposed to the fashion world and to express interest in the field prior to graduation. Fourth, publish articles on fashion law within your law school with the help of professors. Fifth, network as much as humanly possible by way of attending conferences. Sixth, get to know who the prominent lawyers in the field are and what work they have accomplished. Seventh, try to find a mentor who can help with putting you on the correct path. Eighth, volunteer with legal organizations in the world of arts and fashion. Ninth, look into job openings at government agencies since they often have divisions which work directly within fashion law. Finally, show potential employers that you are serious about the field and not simply in it for the glamour of it all. Gioconda closes by reminding aspiring fashion lawyers that there is no exact recipe for success but taking the steps above to put yourself on the right track will bring you one step closer to becoming a fashion lawyer.

# A Note From Your SBA President

**John Bandeian, 3L**

My Fellow Classmates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to school after the winter break. As you may know, there are a number of events coming up this semester. First, we have the 34th Annual WNEC Law Intercollegiate Basketball Tournament. We have a number of men's and women's teams as well as an alumni team participating and many other law schools in the region send teams. The event is hosted at the Alumni Healthful Living Center and spans the weekend of February 13th through the 15th. On the 13th we will be hosting the teams at a social event at Paddy's, and on the 14th there will be an event at Smith's after the games.

That same weekend of February 13th – 15th, WNEC is hosting the National Black Law Students Association Convention. There will be more information as the date approaches, but it will be a great opportunity to network with students from around the country. In addition, there are a number of CLE courses and Moot Court competitions to participate in or attend.

The next big event is Barrister's Week, which is an annual event culminating with Barrister's Ball. Barrister's Week is the week in which we celebrate what it means to be a lawyer. There will be a number of guest speakers focusing on this topic and other events. Barrister's Ball will be held on April 3rd at the Log Cabin in Holyoke and tickets will go on sale in March. Looking forward to seeing you all dressed to impress!

April is a busy month – this is the time when the SBA hosts their elections. We will be looking for new representatives and executive board candidates. Information about the rules and positions will be posted in March.

The final major event is the Ambulance Chase, our annual charity 5K. This event will help us raise money for Open Pantry, so dust off those running shoes and break out the Under Armour! The event is scheduled for April 18th and will be a great time.

As always, the SBA and I are open to any comments, concerns, and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at [Jbandeian@gmail.com](mailto:Jbandeian@gmail.com).

# Dude, Where Are My Grades?

**Bernardo Cuadra, 2L**

Every semester, the student body endures a painful rite of passage: waiting for grades to be tallied and posted. And every year, for 1Ls and upperclassmen alike, the question remains the same: Dude, seriously, where are my grades?

For a student who invests any amount of time preparing for class and studying for the final exam, it can be incredibly frustrating to have to wait up to six weeks for all the grades to be posted. This can be especially troublesome for first year students, who often confront very serious questions: Do I belong in law school? Am I any good at this? Did I even come close to a decent grade? Especially after the first semester, with almost zero indication as to the likelihood of success on a mid-term or final exam, students get increasingly maddened with the slow rate of return on the mental and emotional investments made all semester. Add on the implications of class rank on scholarship requirements and job placement prospects, and the frustrations creep towards anger, causing students to really question the process and demand answers.

So then- what gives? Well, there are two key factors that control the process. The first, and most

obvious, is the professor grading the exams. Depending on the size of the class, the length and complexity of the exam, and the timing of the exam itself (early or late in the exam period), the professor may take a week or a month to hand in his or her grades to Student Records. Of course, personality and priorities come into play as well.

Are there rules? Yes. The current policy of Student Records is that all professors must turn in their grades within one month of the last scheduled final exam. And according to Student Records, most professors meet that deadline, but not always. This year, the last set of exams was turned in by January 26.

The second factor is the Student Records department- the folks that turn the professor's final tally into a meaningful two-digit number on ASAP. Given the importance of the final grade, the process of posting is very meticulous and time consuming. According to Student Records, the average amount of time it takes to post the final score for any given course can be anywhere from 45 minutes to three hours. There are numerous factors that can affect the amount of time it takes to input and post grades, including the size of the class, the inclusion of non-anonymous participation points or other mid-term scores, and whether there are any other technical glitches. This past semester, for instance, there was a big problem with students using the wrong exam number. Terry Chenier, Acting Registrar, said this complication delayed

the posting of many class scores.

Although she completely understands the frustration many students face when there appears to be a delay in the process, Terry says posting accurate results is her number one priority, and that she would "rather wait and have it right." Terry also explained that when the semester starts, there are numerous other responsibilities that Student Records must manage, including Add/Drop, classroom changes, February graduates, teacher evaluations, transcript requests, insurance questions, and other general paperwork.

The good news is that Student Records is looking to make it easier for students to access additional information from ASAP, like class rank. In addition, improvements with exam number distribution should help streamline posting once summer hits and everyone is screaming again, "Dude, where are my grades?!"

## Lex Brevis Staff

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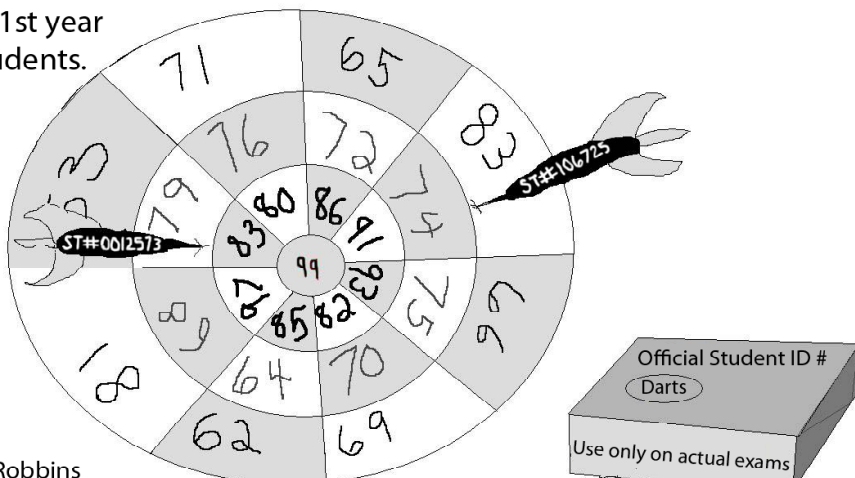
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Lex Brevis is an independent newspaper published by the students of the School of Law at Western New England College. Lex Brevis is a recognized student organization, chartered by the Western New England College School of Law Student Bar Association, and funded by the activities fees collected from currently enrolled students at the School of Law. The opinions expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the college, the law school, or the Student Bar Association.

Unsigned editorials represent the views of the newspaper. Signed editorials, columns, reviews, cartoons, and letters represent the personal opinions of the authors. Contributions from the WNEC School of Law community, the Bar, and the legal community are welcome.

Please send submissions to Jessica Gordon at: [jgordn@gmail.com](mailto:jgordn@gmail.com)

What grading seems like to 1st year law students.



By Kelli Robbins

# Social Networking in the Legal Community

**Jessica Gordon, 2L**

The social networking wave has officially hit the legal community. From blogs written by esteemed professionals to the “micro-blogging” of Twitter.com, I’ve found myself filling many lunch hours following dockets, careers, and the personal musings of attorneys online. Depending on your personal taste and level of interest, there really is a network out there from which every law student can benefit, learn, and even find humor.

My affair with the online world of the law started when I was checking out a friend’s Twitter account and stumbled across [www.scotusblog.com/wp](http://www.scotusblog.com/wp), the “Supreme Court of the United States Blog.” Written by a number of attorneys, law professors, and legal reporters, this blog and its corresponding Twitter page provide a constant stream of updates regarding the weekly and daily activity of the Supreme Court. “Oral Argument Recaps,” “Today at the Supreme Court,” and “Today’s Opinions” are a few of the headlines appearing each week, and the articles never disappoint. With concise summaries that would make an LRW professor proud, the blog postings on SCOTUSblog provide accurate recounts not only of what the Justices have been up to, but also what the attorneys for the parties have been doing to prepare for their day in court. In addition, the search feature and different tabs allow the reader to easily find the articles that interest him or her. In addition to the blog page, SCOTUSblog maintains a Twitter account on which it posts a number of updates throughout the day with brief headlines and links to the corresponding article. It’s a great way to receive updates throughout the day and quickly scan the blog’s content to pick out the articles that are most interesting to you. SCOTUSblog can be found on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/SCOTUSblog](http://www.twitter.com/SCOTUSblog).

JD Supra is a website that allows lawyers to upload and share their legal documents, newsletters, and other related documents with other professionals. JD Supra frequently updates a number of Twitter accounts with short updates usually including links to different types of sites relating to the legal profession. One of these Twitter channels is the “Law Practice” channel ([www.twitter.com/Law\\_Practice](http://www.twitter.com/Law_Practice)), on which is a continuous stream of information regarding the practice of law itself. While aimed at practitioners, I’ve really enjoyed following this feed and checking out some of the linked articles which range from tips and tricks of the trade to humorous satires poking fun at the stereotypical attorney.

JD Supra also runs a Twitter feed under the name Legal Alerts ([www.twitter.com/Legal\\_Alerts](http://www.twitter.com/Legal_Alerts)), which has been particularly interesting to me as a student and as one employed by a law firm. Legal Alerts is also updated frequently with links to a wide range of articles on topics such as analysis of federal rules, discussion of cases from a variety of state and federal courts, debates about legislation, and crazy courtroom stories. These two JD Supra Twitter feeds never lack for variety and always give me something stimulating to read on my lunch break.

For some legal humor, I always turn to [www.litination.com](http://www.litination.com). The author of the blog only reveals him or herself as an “associate,” but believes that the practice of law “requires a sense of humor” and seeks to provide an “entertaining diversion from your regularly scheduled billable hour or law school seminar.” Litination boasts a wealth of real and not-so-real (but always funny) legal news and a Seinfeld-style way of putting powerful legal professionals, struggling public interest attorneys, and even law students on the same page: our profession is serious, but there is always humor to be found. One of my favorite postings involved an in-depth discussion of sign-off lines used by attorneys in e-mails and letters, with the author seeking to get to the bottom of what attorneys really mean in their sign-offs. I highly recommend this blog to anyone feeling overwhelmed with law-school-specific stress or anxiety, as it will provide at least a temporary relief and remind you that at the end of the day, all at-

torneys are humans too and we all need a good laugh sometimes.

For another legal laugh, check out <http://abovethelaw.com>. A self-proclaimed “legal tabloid,” Above the Law contains articles on an endless variety of legal topics, including many specifically about law school. When you have one of those “oh my God, I can’t believe that just happened” moments in class or the library, chances are someone has an equally funny story and is sharing it on Above the Law. The profiles of the blog’s authors don’t reveal too much about who they are, but they definitely seem to track down some of the most roll-your-eyes ridiculous legal stories out there and update frequently for our entertainment.

Finally, for an extremely comprehensive overview of the goings-on of the legal community as well as the political community, Legal Times ([www.legaltimes.com](http://www.legaltimes.com)) is a treasure trove of information. Formatted like a newspaper for the internet, Legal Times covers every breaking news story in the legal field, discusses the political aspect of the practice of law, and also has a separate page created just for practitioners. The numerous categories offered in the sidebar make it very easy for the browser to weed through the wealth of content and easily find stories of interest.

While most of us are seriously lacking for free time to browse the web, I’ve found these sites and countless others entertaining, educational, and a great way to spend time on the internet without actually wasting any time. And, for those interested in writing, some of these blogs and other legal web publications actively take submissions from students and are very willing to read your articles or become a friend to your own blog if you have one. Happy browsing!