

## Sen. Feingold Visits

By Erin Lamb

On Monday, Oct. 20, the Temple Law Democrats invited Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) to Temple Law's Moot Court Room to speak on behalf of Senator Obama's (D-IL) presidential campaign. In office since 1992, Sen. Feingold is Wisconsin's junior senator and a well-known and powerful voice in the Senate.

Professor Jan Ting entertained the crowd before Feingold arrived with stories of his own forays into the political arena. Prof. Ting stated in his introduction of the senator that Feingold's entire political career epitomized the themes of the Obama campaign: Change, Progress, Reform, and Hope.

Speaking in front of a standing-room only crowd in the Moot Court Room, Sen. Feingold spent most of his speech debunking what he considered to be myths about Sen. Obama's lack of legislative experience and skill. Feingold pointed to his own experience working with Sen. Obama on the lobbying reform bills that went through the Senate in 2006 and 2007. In 2006, the first bill series of reforms introduced in the wake of the Jack Abramoff scandal was passed, but most commentators believed it did not go far enough. After the Democrats became the majority party after Congressional elections, but despite opposition from both parties, Sen. Feingold and Sen. Obama introduced the stronger Lobbying and Ethics Reform Act of 2007,

Having earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School, Sen. Feingold took the opportunity to discuss the Bush Administration's approach to the law for the past eight years as well. He characterized the administration for having a disregard and disrespect for the rule of law.

He specifically criticized the administration's interpretation of Article II of the Constitution. Sen. Feingold said that the administration approaches the Constitution as having created a unitary executive department under the total dominion of the President. This greatly limits legislative oversight of the executive branch and the role of regulatory agencies. In some cases, this approach allows the president to simply ignore the law. If a law requires executive action (such as laws necessitating the creation of an agency with special legislative powers), the president can simply refuse to set the process in motion, which renders the law ineffective.

Sen. Obama, Sen. Feingold believes, would not adopt this theory and would return the executive branch to what he believed is its traditional and rightful place under the law.

Sen. Feingold pointed to the selection of Harriet Miers as a Supreme Court nominee as another example of the Bush Administration's flouting of the legislative branch and

➤ See **Feingold** p. 4

### Signs We Ignore, Part I



## Faculty Discuss Grading Policy With Students

by James Barger

Students listed numerous reasons why they dislike Temple Law's grading policy, at a recent breakfast with several members of the faculty. Students particularly focused on their disapproval of the relatively low GPA median at the center of the grading curve.

The discussion took place at November "leadership breakfast" attended by members of the Faculty Administrative Committee and invited student leaders, such as representatives from student organizations. The four faculty members were Profs. Theresa Glennon, Richard Greenstein, David Hoffman, and James Shellenberger. Dean Marylouise Esten also attended.

An e-mail Dean Esten sent to participants said "[m]embers of the Faculty Administrative Committee . . . would like to hear your ideas and thoughts about the grading policy and changes to it."

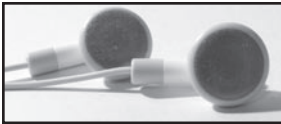
The law school's class rank reports, as posted on law.temple.edu, state that "[t]he Law School Faculty has adopted a grading policy which recommends a mean grade in all courses other than upper-level writing courses (800 and 900 level courses) of 2.85."

The following is a partial list of

the comments and suggestions at the breakfast:

- The grading policy, including the relatively low GPA median, was implemented to put students on notice when they are statistically in danger of failing the bar exam after graduation, according to Profs. Hoffman and Shellenberger. Before the current grading policy, many students did not prepare properly for the bar exam because they thought their law school grades were an indication that they would do well on the bar exam.
- Prof. Shellenberger read some statistics that show a significant increase in bar passage since implementing the grading policy and lowering the average grade
- Dean Esten said the law school has graphs of the statistics that provide a dramatic picture of the relationship between grades and bar passage at Temple Law over the past several years. Dean Esten offered to show the graphs to one student who expressed concern about grades at the breakfast. However, she later explained that the graphs reveal too much private information to allow her to release them for publication in *Prima Facie*.
- Prof. Hoffman said the committee that researched possible solutions for the

➤ See **Grading** p. 2



# Unsolicited Advice: Wordless Music

by Chris Page, 2L

Tired of singing along in your head when you should *really* be figuring out what the deal is with some eight-factor test the court introduced in the case you're reading? Do you find yourself transcribing the words blasting into your eardrums into your course outlines instead of the holding of the case? If you're having these issues, you may want to try out bands that specialize in music without words.

While we know here at *Prima Facie* that musical tastes vary, if you've got a free Pandora account and want bands that are light on the verbiage, give these groups a try:

**Band: Explosions in the Sky**

*How you may know them:* Ever watch *Friday Night Lights*? That soaring background music? That's them.

**Band: Mogwai**

*How you may know them:* Scottish band that sold t-shirts saying "Blur: Are Shite" in the late 1990s. Did not update in the 2000s to say "Gorillaz: Are Shite," though.

**Band: Godspeed You Black Emperor!**

*How you may know them:* Actually, you may not. They're best known for their distate of corporate media, business, and rarely give interviews. But it's not unusual for them to

play songs that last 20 minutes or so without a single word.

**Band: Sigur Rós**

*How you may know them:* Probably the second most famous musical act from Iceland (after Björk). One of their songs appeared in the movie *Vanilla Sky*...but don't hold it against them! Technically not "wordless," but they sing in a made-up language and in Icelandic, so you *probably* won't be singing along any time soon.

There you have it. Pandora can lead you to other similar sounds, but these are some options to get you started. Happy listening!

## Grading (continued from p. 1)

previously low bar passage rates found that law school GPA was the only factor that correlated significantly with bar passage. For example, undergraduate GPA, LSAT, program choice (full-time/part-time), and course selection (e.g. taking "bar" classes) did not have any predictive power.

- The law school should consider granting students an "A" for 1L Legal Research & Writing courses, according to one student, rather than a "pass" grade, in order to boost grades while maintaining the current grading policy in other courses.
- One student said she likes Temple Law's grading policy. She said her experience has been that Philadelphia law firms understand the policy. "If you come out of Temple with a 3.5, they know that's better than a 3.6 or 3.7 at [other law schools]," she said.
- A student asked how LL.M. students affect the grading curve in each class. The faculty members said LL.M. students can choose whether they want a grade or merely a pass/fail indication. If they choose to receive a grade, that grade is calculated along with all the others in the class for purposes of the curve. However, most LL.M. students choose pass/fail, they said.
- Students expressed general concern about seeking jobs outside the Philadelphia area. At least one student expressed concern about looking for international law jobs outside the United States.
- Faculty members pointed out that students can refer employers to class rank, to put grades in proper perspective, although several students said many employers have GPA minimums or simply don't give proper attention to the class rank. The law school does not disclose individual class ranks, but does publish class rank statistics on the law school website, Dean Esten said.
- There is a "psychological effect" of letter grades and GPAs that cannot be offset by pointing out the class rank information, said one student. He mentioned the "shock factor" of a potential employer seeing a "C+" instead of a "B-" on a transcript.
- One student said small and mid-sized law firms are less likely to understand or recognize the Temple Law curve, because they do not engage in frequent hiring.
- Some students expressed opinions that the grading policy encourages

students to enroll in more upper-level writing courses than they otherwise would, purely so they can avoid the grading curve. Upper-level writing courses are exempt from the recommended mean grade policy, according to the law school's class rank reports.

- Several students expressed concerns that some professors adhere more strictly to the grade curve than others.
- A student at the breakfast said another Temple Law student warned her not to take a particular class. She said the advice was "If you want to take that course, there's a very high possibility you're not going to get higher than a 'B.'"
- Another student said she had been warned to avoid a class taught by one of the professors at the breakfast. She said she was told "The chance you're going to do well [in that professor's class] is very low."
- There was some discussion of whether the grading policy should be mandatory, rather than "recommended."
- One student said she feels extra stress during job interviews because she usually does not know if the interviewer already understands the Temple Law grading policy.
- There was some discussion of the possibility of the law school modifying the grading policy. In response, one student pointed out that raising the GPA median would current students' grades look worse, because they would still carry grades earned under the stricter rules on their transcript – and calculated into their overall GPA. A faculty member mentioned the possibility of phasing in a change over several years, if such a change is ever made.
- Prof. Shellenberger alluded to one strategy students employ to take advantage of an up-side of the grading policy. In Temple Law's Rome summer program, many students are non-Temple students who will only receive a "pass/fail" mark on the transcripts at their respective schools. So, those students tend to worry less about earning an "A" and, therefore, make the grading curve more forgiving for Temple students who might study more in the same class.

The law school publishes professor evaluations and grade distribution reports that students can use to judge how closely each adheres to the recommended grading policy.

# Commentary: Temple's Recycling is Cash Money

By Matt Hollow, 3L

I've put in my three years worth of time zoning out in class and loafing around Klein between classes. Unfortunately, my surprise is short-lived when I am jolted out of my hallway revelry whenever I see a seemingly intelligent, informed, Temple law student mindlessly chucks a glass, aluminum, or plastic container into the trash. More often than not, this mindless Americana method of disposal is carried out within sight of one of the many recycling containers placed throughout Klein Hall. See generally <http://www.temple.edu/facilities/rechowto.htm> [yeah, that's Blue Book seeping into this article].

When throwing a plastic bottle into the trash, it doesn't merely end up in a landfill. The bottle costs Temple money too. Recycling is about saving the earth, hugging trees, and hemp lollipops, sure. But for an institution like Temple it's also about cutting costs.

Shipping waste to a landfill the school has to pay hauling costs and landfill fees. Shipping to a recycling center costs money too, but all those nickels for the cans noticeably offset the cost of waste disposal. Running a mail truck to Michigan didn't work for Kramer and Newman, but they had the right idea. Recycling magically turns trash into a marketable product. Kazaam!

Temple University began recycling in 1989 when idealism outpaced practicality. Everyone agreed that recycling was important, but the infrastructure was incapable of meeting the demands of recyclers. For example, some recycling centers would not accept plastic. A recycler who threw everything into a single stream couldn't use that facility. Virginia Arnsberger, of Temple's Recycling Office, designed Temple's recycling program and notes that Temple's current system is a legacy of earlier days. At that time, a single-stream collection was not practical – a bag full of dirty paper, glass, and plastic was not something a glass-only recycler wanted unless they were paid to take the plastic.

Newer models like the S.M.R.F. (Single-Stream Material Recovery

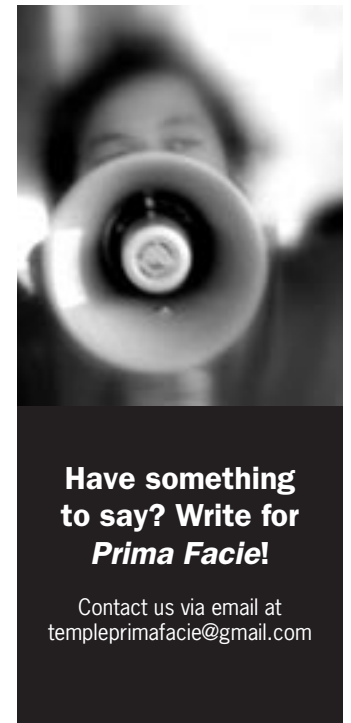


Facility) now have the capacity to handle Mr. Nutter's "all together now" one-bucket system. See generally [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls\\_Y7cadISc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls_Y7cadISc) (proving how big of a nerd you are by watching the Science Channel's M.R.F. video).

Philadelphia's big S.M.R.F. is Blue Mountain behind the PathMark on Grays Ferry. According to Mrs. Arnsberger, Temple may begin utilizing the services of a S.M.R.F. For the past few months the Recycling Office has been considering a shift to a modified single-stream system. While paper wouldn't be part of the gang, beverage containers (plastic, aluminum, glass) would be allowed together in one bin.

So the "waste" in the recycling bins is actually a product the university puts on the marketplace in an attempt to cut the costs of trash disposal. The quality of the recycling product depends on each individual's contributions. By using the trashcan when we could use the recycling bins we're using the most expensive mode of disposal, so save the earth and save some money too – Recycle!

## Signs We Ignore, Part II



**Have something  
to say? Write for  
Prima Facie!**

Contact us via email at  
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Drawing Board by Alex Phiambolis, 3L



**Scalia's Worst Nightmare:  
A Wet Willy From Washington**

### Feingold (continued from p. 1)

lack of respect for the law. As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Feingold grew frustrated with the failure of the Bush Administration to appoint quality jurists at all levels, including among the district and circuit courts. Sen. Feingold declared that Sen. Obama would appoint jurists that share "our worldview". He also characterized Miers and Clarence Thomas as unqualified jurists whose views Sen. Obama would not support.

Sen. Feingold also took questions from the audience, and many students were impressed at his grasp of policy and how willing he was to speak freely and in concrete terms. Questions included ones on Sen. Obama's plans to revoke the Bush Administration's highly criticized federal wiretapping program, higher education programs, the Patriot Act, effects of Sen.

Obama's tax program on small businesses, and plans to tackle the current world financial crisis.

Sen. Feingold was unwilling to commit Sen. Obama's campaign to a fiscal crisis plan, stating only that he believes Sen. Obama would not do anything that would injure businesses or make their jobs harder in the current financial market.

2L Felix Yelin asked Sen. Feingold whether his statements on qualified jurists sharing Sen. Obama's worldview amounted to a litmus test, and asked him to clarify his definition of "qualified".

Sen. Feingold responded that he had voted for Chief Justice John Roberts, and that while he certainly has been disappointed in some of Roberts' decisions, he was an unquestionably qualified legal mind, whereas he had not voted for Justice

Samuel Alito. Sen. Feingold also dismissed discussion of a litmus test, saying he did not think it was a proper way to choose judges.

Yelin responded to this paper's later inquiry, "Senator Feingold answered very much like a typical politician. He had rehearsed campaign answers to standard questions and was able to deflect any hard questions with superficial responses that avoided the heart of the inquiry."

2L Elyse Kleinberg saw Sen. Feingold differently, and said of his visit, "Senator Feingold did a great job fielding a variety of well thought-out questions. I particularly thought he was impressive when he called for the immediate closure of Guantanamo Bay. Many politicians would have not stated an answer so frankly."

# Dean Epps listens to student concerns

by James Barger

Students told Dean JoAnne Epps about a wide range of concerns at a gathering held Oct. 7, in Barrack Hall. Dean Epps was the featured guest at the “student leadership breakfast” to “talk about issues affecting the Law School,” according to the invitation e-mail Dean Marylouise Esten sent to participants.

Dean Esten’s invitation e-mail described the purpose of the event. “A few years ago, we started an initiative to help foster student leadership at the Law School,” Esten wrote in the e-mail. “We periodically gather all

of our student leaders for what we call a Student Leadership Breakfast. This is a great opportunity for us to exchange information about what’s happening at the Law School, brainstorm about ideas for the future, and talk about issues affecting students, faculty and administrators at the Law School.”

A second leadership breakfast was held in November, even though the law school typically holds no more than one each semester. The second breakfast was assembled to discuss the law school grading policy. (See related article elsewhere in this issue of *Prima Facie*.)

*The following is a list of some of the issues and questions students raised at the breakfast:*

- ✓ Some Intellectual Property (IP) courses overlapped in recent semesters, making course selection difficult for those who wanted multiple courses in the IP program.
- ✓ One student suggested that the law school respond to the growing importance of the Web and Internet use by building a comprehensive, integrated Internet Law and IP program.
- ✓ Another student said she would like to see more courses to prepare students for public policy and government work, as opposed to other public interest work or law firm jobs.
- ✓ A student asked if the law school could provide IP clinical programs. Dean Epps said this is challenging because typically the law school’s clinical programs must be with non-profit organizations. However, she added that professors are making an inquiry into ways to update the upper-class curriculum.
- ✓ The Integrated Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP) might actually do a disservice to some future litigators, in the opinion of one student at the breakfast. He said he believed the effort required for the trial advocacy part of the ITAP program resulted in non-ITAP students gaining a firmer grasp of Evidence.
- ✓ Temple Law’s grading policy was another topic of discussion. The law school’s relatively low grade point average (GPA) median hurts Temple Law students in the job market, one student said. Dean Epps said the grading policy serves multiple goals, one of them being a “signal” to students that they need to prepare for the bar exam. When average grades were higher, an alarming number of students failed the bar exam. Under the current grading policy, students in danger of failing the bar exam are given a clearer warning, in the form of lower grades than they would have received under the past system.
- ✓ Continuing the grading policy discussion, a student pointed out Temple Law’s GPA median makes the task of securing jobs in government agencies in Washington, D.C., particularly challenging, because those agencies often have strict GPA requirements or do not take into account lower-than-usual grading curves.
- ✓ The law school needs more study rooms, according to one student. Dean Esten suggested that rooms in Barrack Hall might be available when those in Klein Hall are filled.
- ✓ Maintenance is lacking in one part of Klein Hall, according to a student who described flickering lights and missing ceiling tiles in the part of Klein Hall that is used for legal clinics.
- ✓ Student Bar Association (SBA) meetings and ITAP classes overlap, causing some students to be unable to attend SBA meetings, said one student.
- ✓ One student said the air conditioning in the law school buildings is always too cold. Another student said the buildings tend to be too hot. Dean Epps said the extensive repairs to the air conditioning system, which are still underway, will not change the situation. She said there are technical difficulties in trying to achieve a perfect temperature in all rooms at all times.
- ✓ There was some discussion about students and faculty smoking on the steps of Klein Hall, on the wrong side of the “no smoking” sign posted on the steps. Students said one problem is the amount of cigarette butts thrown on the steps. Dean Epps said students “have to ask the [law school] community to fight back” to stop the problem.
- ✓ A student reported that numerous flyers were disappearing off bulletin boards in Klein Hall, although there appeared to be no pattern to which ones were being taken down.
- ✓ Some students talked about the difficulty in keeping up with the information about events at the law school, noting occasionally inaccurate information on the Web-based and e-mailed calendar. One student said there are too many e-mails. In response, an SBA representative said the SBA is working on improving their system, to create an “opt-in/opt-out” ability.
- ✓ The law school website is too difficult to navigate, making even information hard to find, said one student. Dean Epps said, at the outset of the breakfast, that the law school is in the process of building a new website, through the hired services of a web development company.
- ✓ Legal Research & Writing courses should be worth more credits, said one student, because of the disproportionate amount of effort currently required by the classes.
- ✓ The ALWD citation system should not be used at Temple Law, according to a student who asked why the law school uses ALWD in Legal Research & Writing courses, rather than the much more widely used Bluebook system. Dean Epps explained that ALWD was created by the former director of Temple Law’s Legal Research & Writing program. She said she has been told that ALWD is close enough to Bluebook that use of ALWD is not harming students.

# ORGANIZATIONS

## Student Groups at Temple Law

Compiled by Jesse Chen

The following list is not necessarily exhaustive. If you know of a student group that is not included, please send information about the group to *Prima Facie* through the contact page on [www.TemplePrimaFacie.com](http://www.TemplePrimaFacie.com).

### **Name: Temple Alternative Break**

**Description:** “Members have the responsibility of participating in fundraising events throughout the year (bake sales, quizzo events, recent minigolf fundraiser) so that they can partake in the money that is raised to fund our spring break trip.” Most recent two trips were to New Orleans.

**Mission Statement:** “Temple Alternative Break is a student group dedicated to annually sending students to regions of the United States to provide free legal and community-based services.”

**Membership:** ~15-20 members, free to join.

**Contact:** Jennifer Russell, [jenniferannrussell@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferannrussell@gmail.com)

**Advisor:** Maureen Olives

**Events Planned (Time):** Check in the spring for more events

### **Name: Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)**

**Description:** Members enjoy networking opportunities with local Asian American attorneys, information on employment opportunities, fellowships, scholarships, a mentorship program, and other social events such as karaoke. Members are welcome and encouraged to help in any event APALSA organizes, from food sales to the Lunar New Year Banquet.

**Mission Statement:** “Our mission is to foster diversity and to promote Asian American issues at Temple Law.”

**Membership:** Open to all, free to join.

**Contact:** Gina Tran, [regina.tran@temple.edu](mailto:regina.tran@temple.edu)

**Faculty Advisor:** Professor Ting

**Events Planned:** Lunar New Year Banquet, Quizzo Spectacular, Karaoke End-of-the-Year Party

### **Name: Black Law Students Association (BLSA)**

**Description:** “Since 1969, BLSA has been supporting African American students at Temple Law. That support has taken various forms, most recently via peer mentorship, academic enrichment, career planning support

and social activities. Members are responsible for supporting one another and upholding the standards of the national organization.”

**Mission Statement:** “BLSA’s mission is to articulate and promote the needs and goals of Black law students and effectuate change in the legal community.”

**Membership:** 42 due-paying members, open to all, participation not limited to due-paying members, national/regional dues total \$25.

**Contact:** Jennifer Supplee

**Advisor:** Prof. Donald Harris

**Events Planned (Time):** Remaining events this semester include: Faculty/Student Brunch, Alumni Networking Reception, BLSA Food Sale, Mentor-Mentee Outing, 1L Reviews, Philadelphia Law Camp, 1L Academic Retreat, Exam Break & Study Session.

### **Name: The Brehon Law Society (“The Brehons”)**

**Description:** “We participate in events organized by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Brehons as well as organize networking opportunities with students from neighboring schools, practicing attorneys, and sitting judges.” Members also claim to host the best happy hours.

**Mission Statement:** “The Brehon Law Society is a group of law students that promotes learning about Irish laws and culture through the social, cultural and intellectual activities.”

**Membership:** Open to all, \$15 at or before August Welcome Back Happy Hour, \$20 thereafter.

**Contact:** Colleen K. McCue, [ckmccue@gmail.com](mailto:ckmccue@gmail.com);

Colin Stewart, [cstewa03@temple.edu](mailto:cstewa03@temple.edu);

Colin Haviland, [CSH555@temple.edu](mailto:CSH555@temple.edu)

**Advisor:**

**Events Planned (Time):** Welcome Back Happy Hour (Aug.), other happy hour and celebrations, Irish Heritage Day at Citizens Bank Park (Apr.), various lunch hour discussion topics.

### **Name: Temple Christian Legal Society**

**Mission Statement:** “The Christian Legal Society aspires to be a student-led group that works to support the spiritual and intellectual life of its members and interested non-members through dialogue that intersects law and faith. Our core value is to better understand the commands of Jesus Christ to love God and those around us.”

**Membership:** 40 members, free to join.

**Contact:** Tristan Bramble,

[tbramble@temple.edu](mailto:tbramble@temple.edu)

**Advisor:** Prof. Stephen Mikochik

**Events Planned (Time):** Weekly Friday lunchtime bible study; more to be announced.

### **Name: Temple Environmental Law Society (TELS)**

**Description:** Promotes environmentally friendly personal acts and public policy. “This year TELS is doing a variety of activities. Not only are we involved in the usual clean up, but we are planting trees, buying and retiring carbon credits, and joining up with other organizations to lobby city hall for more recycling bins on the streets of Philadelphia.”

**Membership:** 20 members, open to all, free to join.

**Contact:** Rick Lowenberg, [rick1462@aol.com](mailto:rick1462@aol.com);

Mary Cate Gordon, [gmarycat@temple.edu](mailto:gmarycat@temple.edu)

**Advisor:** Prof. Amy Sinden

**Events Planned (Time):** Lobby City Hall with GAS, fundraising for carbon credits, community clean-ups.

### **Name: Government Affairs Society (GAS)**

**Description:** Trains members in lobbying with lectures and other opportunities. Members should be actively interested in government, politics, and policy-making.

**Mission Statement:** The Government Affairs Society is dedicated to promoting careers in government affairs and teaching students a broad range of government relation skills.

**Membership:** 100 members, join by attending meeting, free to join.

**Contact:** Jamie Ware, [jware@temple.edu](mailto:jware@temple.edu)

**Advisor:** None.

**Events Planned (Time):** Check in the spring for more events

### **Name: Temple International and Comparative Law Journal**

**Description:** Legal journal, bi-annual publication. Emphasis on public and private international law. Includes articles by legal scholars and student-written notes or comments. Members may join Staff and Editorial Board. Responsibilities of members include copy editing, writing notes or comments, administration, and publication of issues.

**Mission Statement:** “The Temple International & Comparative Law Journal is a natural outgrowth of the commitment of the Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law to the fields of international and comparative

law, providing readers informative, diversified, and current discussions of material in a wide range of fields emphasizing both public and private international law and offer a variety of comparative law topics.”

**Membership:** 16 Editorial Board and 30 Staff members. Membership decided through Spring Semester Write-On competition.

**Contact:** Editor-in-Chief Jeff Vagle, Executive Editor Jeanmarie Dunn-Kane

**Advisor:** Prof. Duncan Hollis

**Name: Jewish Law Student Association**

**Description:** Provides social and professional activities for members.

**Mission Statement:** “The purpose of the Temple Jewish Law Student Association is to foster a vibrant Jewish community at Temple Law School, to raise awareness of Jewish issues in the legal community, to promote a coherent social network among similarly minded law students at Temple Law, and to forge connections with Jewish community groups across all professional disciplines. The JLSA implements these aims through its Mentoring Program, the invitation of guest speakers, promotion of faculty relationships, educational forums, and social events.”

**Membership:** 58 members, open to all, free to join

**Contact:** [tujlsa@gmail.com](mailto:tujlsa@gmail.com)

**Events Planned (Time):** Networking Event (3/2009).

**Name: Moot Court Honor Society**

**Description:** Members must take a course in appellate advocacy, compete in outside Moot Court competitions, and assist competing members by judging their arguments.

**Mission Statement:** “The Moot Court Honor Society is dedicated to achieving excellence in written and oral advocacy.”

**Membership:** 29 members, members selected through Polsky Competition, free to join.

**Contact:** Warren Holland

**Advisor:** Prof. Ellie Margolis

**Events Planned (Time):** Stern Competition (May, 2009), guest lecturers

**Name: National Lawyers Guild (NLG)**

**Description:** “The NLG was founded in 1937 as a left-wing, racially-integrated alternative to the American Bar Association. Members have incredible opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally.” Temple members enjoy 1L mentoring and various social justice projects and events. National membership enjoy “job and internship opportunities, networking events, access to workshops and job fairs, opportunities to travel to other

countries (the next will be a delegation to observe the March 2009 presidential elections in El Salvador).”

**Mission Statement:** “The National Lawyers Guild seeks to unite the lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers of America in an organization that shall function as an effective political and social force in the service of the people, to the end that human rights shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests.”

**Membership:** \$5 to join Temple NLG, \$15 annual dues for national membership.

**Contact:** Abby Biberman, [abiberman@gmail.com](mailto:abiberman@gmail.com); Matthew Pillischer, [matthew.pillischer@temple.edu](mailto:matthew.pillischer@temple.edu)

**Events Planned (Time):** Race and the Elections, national convention, continuing film series, election viewing party, immigration career panel, more to be announced.

**Name: Outlaw**

**Description:** Supports gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) students and is concerned with GLBT issues in law. Provides a “safe space for everyone, regardless of their identity”.

**Mission Statement:** “Outlaw works to represent the concerns of Temple Law’s LGBT population and its allies through social and educational programming and political activism. Outlaw is open to all members of the Temple Law School community.”

**Membership:** ~50 members, open to all

**Contact:** Nick Setteducato, [ngs@temple.edu](mailto:ngs@temple.edu)

**Advisor:** Prof. Nancy Knauer

**Events Planned (Time):** Happy hours (TBA), Outfest brunch (October), Partnership with the *Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review* in a symposium on transgender and family issues (November), Bown bag lunches with professors and community activists (TBA), Networking/mentorship program at CLE course on elder law and gay issues (Spring, 2009), AIDS walk (TBA), Awarding local judge for service to GLBT issues (Spring, 2009), Equality Associates volunteering program (continuing).

**Name: Philadelphia’s Leaders of Tomorrow (PLOT)**

**Description:** From great bars to professional contacts, PLOT provides members with valuable social and professional networking opportunities as well as a knowledge of resources available throughout the city. Members have as much, or as little responsibility as they choose. They can actively participate in organizing events and finding

professionals to speak to the group, or they can simply attend our events and utilize our knowledge of, and passion for the city.

**Mission Statement:** Our mission is to get students interested in staying in Philadelphia to live and work after graduation.

**Membership:** Open to all, join by attending event or signing up on membership list; free to join.

**Contact:** Ben, Anthony, and Jason at [tuplot@gmail.com](mailto:tuplot@gmail.com).

**Events Planned:** PLOT Happy Hours; brown bag lunch with special guest Rand Spear, “THE Accident Lawyer”, Date TBD

**Name: South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA)**

**Description:** Networks with the South Asian Bar Association of Philadelphia and other South Asian graduate student organizations, organizes fundraisers, holds events addressing South Asian issues.

**Mission Statement:** “To provide a support network and focus on pressing legal issues affecting the South Asian community.”

**Membership:** Free to join.

**Contact:** Priya De Souza, [priyadesouza@gmail.com](mailto:priyadesouza@gmail.com)

**Events Planned (Time):** Annual South Asian food sale.

**Name: Women’s Law Caucus (WLC)**

**Description:** “The WLC offers opportunities for ALL students, female and male. We participate in community service activities that help women in the community. We hold events that promote awareness of the problems women face in the legal profession. We keep an online outline bank that is accessible to all members. We have two mentoring programs: one which matches 1Ls with an upperclass ‘big sister’ or ‘big brother’, and one which matches female 1Ls with female attorneys in the Philadelphia area.”

**Mission Statement:** “The WLC has been active in dealing with problems that particularly concern women in law school as well as those confronting women in society generally.”

**Membership:** Membership forms available at WLC office in Barrack’s 3rd floor. \$20 dues for lifetime membership.

**Contact:** Diana D’Auria, [diana.dauria@gmail.com](mailto:diana.dauria@gmail.com); Rachel Reibman, [rachel.reibman@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.reibman@gmail.com)

**Advisor:** Prof. Kathryn Stanchi

**Events Planned (Time):** monthly community service opportunities, speakers and panels, Spring Reception to honor local woman excelling in the legal profession (spring semester).

# No clue? No problem!

By Nicholas Reyes, 1L

Two months into my law school career, I feel the need to take a step back and look at all of the important things that I have learned so far. By far, the most important thing that I have learned is that the phrase “I go to law school” is the best pickup line ever. It is incredible how easy it is to get the girls interested in you with those five simple words. I provide you with the following exchange that took place in a bar between me and another girl (we’ll call her Agatha):

Me: Hey, why are you sitting over here?  
 Agatha: Because there are no hot guys in this bar...  
 Me: I bet I can change that. (Doing my best to look hot, which sometimes makes me look like I’m having a seizure; it does improve my looks 23% of the time so I take the odds.)  
 Agatha: (genuinely concerned) Are you having a seizure?  
 Me: Damn it.  
 Agatha: So what do you do?  
 Me: I’m in law school.  
 Agatha: Want to go back to my place?

Ha! You see how easy and effective it is? By far, this is the single most important thing that I have learned in law school (I’m still not quite sure what a tort is – my grandma thought it might have been an abbreviation for tortilla, which sounded better than any of my definitions so I guess that’s as good as any. I’m still waiting for the cooking to start though.) I have been able to visit a wide range of bars in Philadelphia and assure you that regardless of the circumstances, this phrase has proven to be 100% effective. Now when the women actually ask me something about law school, I will have to do the thing I do whenever confronted with a difficult question: faint.

Other than this phrase, I have also learned that I really should have studied more. And by study, I mean looked up the areas of Philadelphia for more than 10 minutes on the Internet late at night this summer. I currently live in Olney right next to Einstein Medical Center. I don’t live in a bad part of town; it’s just better for me if I don’t go out at night. I have to do all of my shopping at Rite-Aid. My walks to and from the subway have allowed me to meet a diverse and wildly entertaining group of people (I’ve been offered live turtles, been cursed in a language I believe to be Swahili, been barked at, asked for drugs, offered drugs, grinded on, and gotten involved in a rap battle – and this was all in one day, I can’t wait for tomorrow!). On the other hand, as I’ve constantly reassured my mom, if I do get mugged, I’ve got a hospital right there – who can beat that convenience? I love my neighborhood, I’m high enough up in the apartment that the gunshots are actually rather soothing, kind of like the light tapping of rain against my windows.

Along with these two important revelations, I have also managed to

go to law school for two months, so you must be asking yourself, “Has this guy learned anything?” Rest assured reader, I have learned a great deal of important information – such as how to download Gchat. I have also learned how to make ringtones.

I’m sure there has been plenty of knowledge passed around among my fellow students. At least, I sure see them talking a lot. I overhear all kinds of important things, throwing out words like “memo,” “litigation,” “estoppel,” and “summary judgment.” As far as I can tell, these people are on some kind of drugs.

I have been able to tell my dad that he cannot wiretap my mom. “But what about the federal wiretapping statute exception for spouses?” is my dad’s customary reply. To which I laugh condescendingly and inform him I have written one of these memo things on the subject, that I am in fact, an expert, and that he cannot wiretap his spouse until he has at least 3,000 points on Westlaw, which will also allow him to get a walkie-talkie. I have spent countless hours on Westlaw, clicking on all kinds of interesting buttons, researching cases that have to deal with monkeys, and taking surveys, only to log on the next day and look in horror that I have managed to amass ½ a point.

But I do not lose hope. Those walkie talkies will be mine. I have enlisted a whole team of people to actually go onto Westlaw 24 hours a day and do nothing but accumulate points. At this rate, I will be able to get a TV in the year 2030. I can barely contain my excitement.

Of course, I have been able to learn relevant things in the past two months as well. I have learned about a standard known as the reasonable person standard. I consider myself an expert in this area, which led to the following exchange in the bar between me and another woman (we’ll call her Gertrude):

Gertrude: What did you just say to me?  
 Me: I said, that objectively, courts have been able to determine that your actions are those that are the standard to determine if someone has deviated from that standard (I believe this is the reasonable person standard – it could also be a football team from Russia). You are a reasonable person!  
 Gertrude: So what?  
 Me: (Triumphantly) AHA! A reasonable answer!  
 Gertrude: I’m feeling nauseous.  
 Me: I go to law school.  
 Gertrude: Want to go back to my place?

Again, as you can see, not only have I managed to learn a ton, I have also managed to apply it in real world settings. It’s been a fun two months, and I can’t wait until next semester – that’s when intramural softball finally starts. Now, if you’ll excuse me, I must get back to my work for torts. Rumor has it we start cooking next week.

## Signs We Ignore, Part III

