William Mitchell’s Grading Policy

An Interview with Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Professor Matthews Downs

William Mitchell has long had guidelines that assist faculty in developing a grade normalization curve for their courses. The faculty is the only body that has authority to set academic policies. Under the current grading policy, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (Professor Downs) and the Associate Dean for Skills and Clinics (Professor Schmedemann) are obligated to educate the full-time and adjunct faculty about William Mitchell’s grading norms. The goal is to assure that all students are treated equally and fairly by providing parity in grades for all students, regardless of the instructor.

Professors and adjuncts alike are advised of the College’s grading practices and the prevailing norms, which are also explained in the Student Handbook. Although there is no strictly enforced curve, in order to assure some parity among the 50-plus classes each semester, one of the deans (Schmedemann, Downs, or Brooks) reviews each professor’s grades before they are formally posted. If a particular professor’s grades are perceived to be radically out of alignment (too high or too low - both have been examined in recent years), one of the Associate Deans will discuss the College’s grading practices and norms with that professor and encourage him or her to take another look at the grades and, if necessary, change them to conform to the curve. If the professor is able to justify to the Dean the reasons for the non-conformity, the grades will remain unaltered.

Is William Mitchell’s grading curve mandatory?

No. William Mitchell has established a recommended grading curve. It is not mandatory. The College’s grading policy is consistent with that used in most U.S. law schools.

Why does William Mitchell have a recommended grading curve?

The reason William Mitchell has a grading curve is to establish parity and make grade comparisons among students fair. For example, if one professor’s idea of a “mid-level” grade is a “C,” and another professor’s idea of a mid-level grade is a “B,” then it would be unfair to those students in professor “C’s” class. Most employers look at class rank so raw score is not as important as class rank; hence parity among faculty and between sections of classes is most important.

Another reason for having a grading policy is to guard against grade inflation. For example, if grades are inflated, and 80% of students graduate with honors, then honors don’t mean much. In fact, as reported in the press, Harvard College currently is in the process of re-examining its grading policies because so many of its students graduate with honors.

Can the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs change grades?

If changes are made, the professor or adjunct must make them before the grades are formally posted and entered on a student’s official record.

Meet Professor Port!

By Mary Kilgus, 2L

We have a new professor at William Mitchell, who intends to nicely round out our IP advantage over the other area law schools. I had the chance to ask him some of the questions I know we all have burning in our minds, so here’s your chance to get them answered!

Opinion: So, Professor Port, are you from MN originally?

Prof Port: I’m from Croquet, Minnesota. I went to high school there. I graduated from Macalester in 1982. After graduation, I moved around to Tokyo, LA., Miami, Madison, Chicago, Milwaukee, Tokyo and now the Twin Cities. Although I am “from” here, this is really my first experience living here as a professional adult. Some might dispute the use of either of these terms to describe me, though.

Opinion: What are your thoughts so far?

Prof Port: We like living here a lot. I really like the faculty here and the environs. Students should realize how nice they have it here. Most law schools do not have the commitment to high quality and accomplished faculty, technology, and academics that William Mitchell has. This is a really good place. On the downside, we are disappointed with the public education here. We are working hard to improve Stillwater (where we live). I’m thinking of running for the school board.

Opinion: Political aspirations, huh? What in particular would you like to change?

Prof Port: The disappointments in Stillwater are too many students in the classes (some of the biggest in the state), too much development without specific “give backs” from the developers in the form of money and/or land for new schools to ease the overcrowding that their developments have caused. (Apparently, no one on the school board thought of asking for this so the developers have gone to the bank on the Board’s stupidity.) There are great, committed teachers in Stillwater, though—just too few people going to college in the end. Stillwater used to be sort of a college prep type of school, but they can’t afford it any longer.

Opinion: It sounds like you have your work cut out for you. I’d like to talk about Japan, though. How did you get interested in Japan?

Prof Port: I lived in Japan for 7 of the last 20 years. I went there first as a foreign exchange student to Macalester. I moved back to Japan after I graduated from college and worked there as a translator for 3 years. I came back to go to law school and have made several trips back since. I spent all of last year there on sabbatical at the University of Tokyo (for the second Fulbright Research Grant). I teach Japanese law to American students on study abroad programs, and I teach Japanese students American intellectual property law. I typically spend most academic years in the U.S. and go to Japan most years during the summer.

Opinion: What are the main differences between Japanese lawyers and American lawyers?

Prof Port: That is a big question. The easy answer is Japan lawyers always know where the best sushi restaurant is. Seriously, in Japan, law is still an undergraduate degree. They are not trying to focus on the case law. It is sometimes funny to have a legal discussion with Japanese lawyers. When you say, “the case says X,” they reply, “Yes, but what does the statute say?”

To become “begoshi” (translated as “lawyer”) but it is a job far more specialized than the term in English connotes; Japanese begoshi are primarily

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Paul Marino-

Champion for the Powerless

by Kenneth Kirwin and Peter Erlinder

William Mitchell College of Law

On March 14, we lost a valiant fighter for the poor and downtrodden. Paul J. Marino was born in New York of Sicilian parents on October 29, 1936. He grew up in New York City. He served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves while attending the City College of New York, from which he graduated in 1962. Thereafter, he attended the University of Chicago Law School, where he earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1965.

Paul began his legal career with the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis. Along with his fellow New Yorker and dear friend, Bernard Becker, Paul represented persons who could not afford to pay for a lawyer. Paul soon became an expert in the area of landlord tenant law, and worked tirelessly in the legislative arena, drafting and securing the passage by the Minnesota Legislature of landmark legislation protecting the rights of tenants, including laws on retaliatory eviction, tenants’ remedies, and

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The Bar Exam: Another Test Of Your Mental Constitution?

By Jenifer Macaulay

I’ve just endured the February Minnesota Bar Exam and will see or receive flowers and plants from well-wishers, many of which contained FTD cards that I insist to this day were created to accompany funeral bouquets, or bouquets to be sent to the families of the terminally ill. Just when you think you’ve passed whatever threshold of deservingness that marks the established standard for minimum legal aptitude, they’ll throw another vision quest at you. They know (over and over again) that you’ve got the “right stuff” to be an attorney. It gives me pause each time I encounter yet another test of my supposed aptitude. I wonder if at some point the test is really just whether you can bear to take another test without having a full blown mental collapse. Some test.

On behalf of the Board of Law Examiners, the kind professors at WMCL, the National Council of Bar Examiners, the kind professors at Kaplan, Princeton Review, BarBri and others, I have attempted to reconcile their claimed justifications for these tests with the reality of what I’m going to do if I pass the tests. To no avail. Here are some of the possibilities I’ve considered:

1) Mental breakdown predictor. (My preferred explanation.) The problem with this one is that it reminds me of the scary people at the big railroad who decided to steal DNA because he was afraid. In the early weeks, friends and family started to avoid contact with me. I started to drink coffee and occasionally orange juice or beer. I sat, day after day in a big chair staring at the law, broken down into digestible pieces by a man named Conviser. My dog attempted (unsuccessfully) to escape to my neighbor’s house on several occasions, likely because he was afraid. In the early weeks, friends and family would stop by with care packages of various types of food and drink. During the later weeks, people stopped calling and paying personal visits. Even the mailman snuck carefully up to my mailbox and ran off to avoid contact with me. I started to receive flowers and plants from well-wishers, many of which contained

From the Editor

Well, here it is; my last column as Editor of The Opinion. It has been quite an experience and I’ve learned a lot. What I’ve learned the most is that I could never have done it alone. There are several people who I need to thank for helping me along this year.

First and foremost, I have to thank my husband, Mike Henderson. Without him, I’d never even be in law school, much less editing the paper. And his Spouse’s contributions left me with the confidence that I’d always have something to print in the paper — even if no one else came through.

But of course people did come through — one of the primary of those being Jenifer Macaulay. Jen is one of the people who started up The Opinion after it was out of print several years, and she’s continued to work on it, even after her graduation last December.

Without Jen, the paper wouldn’t be here. And the paper certainly wouldn’t have been as well-funded as it was this year without Jen’s significant efforts. Jen also did all the advertising.

Several other students made regular contributions to the paper, including Mary Kilgus, Dan Gilchrist, Chris Frank, Patrick Osterhues and Tracy Harris. Mary Kilgus has been elected IC for next year and I know she’s going to do a great job. I also want to thank the SBA. It was very supportive this year and took on a life of its own. I’d like to thank the newspaper person. I think the SBA’s work with The Opinion this year will result in more significant long-term stability for the paper that wasn’t present before.

William Mitchell staff, including Karen Jensen Thomas, Diane Lund and Jane Sides, were instrumental this year and I thank them, as well as the several faculty members who contributed articles, including Dean Haynesworth, Professor Winer and Professor Erlinger.

Finally, I want to thank Andrew Warneke. Andrew has been working with me and Jen Macaulay to improve the look of the paper since May of 2001. His work and patience over the past year have been invaluable.

Thank you to everyone who worked to make The Opinion a success and good luck in the future because...

Whoopee!! I Am Outa Here!!

Jen Henderson
Up Yours, Selig!

By Matt Torgerson, 3L

Minnesota was a sports market “jonesing” for professional baseball. Calvin Griffith knew this when he decided in 1960 to move his Washington Senators to Minnesota, renaming the then forty-eight-year-old team the “Twins,” after the Twin Cities. Included in the move were Harmon Killebrew and Bob Allison; soon thereafter Tony Oliva, Rod Carew, Jim Kaat, and Jim Perry joined the team and helped legitimize Minnesota sports by winning the American League Pennant in 1965. Even though the Twins lost the World Series in seven games to Sandy Koufax and the Los Angeles Dodgers, that ’65 season represented to many that one identifiable moment akin to falling in love. And that loving feeling was so strong and exacted such staying power that Minnesota’s base-ball-passionate public overlooked, that in the seventies, the bumbling antics of baseball-antitrust exemptio-melee involving our beloved Twins is surprising, to say the least. Both Senators Wllstone and Dayton are passing up a great opportunity to once and for all make Minnesota a baseball market again that you can’t have your kayak and heat it, too.

Two Eskimos sit in a kayak and staring at Congress, perhaps with a slight grin, waiting for positive action rather than inaction to rectify the current exemption anomaly. Yet nothing is being done. What seems so illogical about the exemption is the antitrust exemption that runs concurrent to the line of cases discussed above. For instance, other professional sports are subject to antitrust laws, including basketball (Haywood v. NBA), football (Radovich v. NFL), and boxing (U.S. v. IBC). Moreover, throughout the twentieth century, the Court has interpreted antitrust law and, in the process, subject professional baseball to antitrust law and, in the process, earn heroic status – at least amongst us Twins fans. It seems that the courts, state and federal, are sitting and staring at Congress, perhaps with the same logic or explanation. “Why,” I asked myself, “isn’t Governor Bobble-Head stating the obvious – that Major League Baseball, a cartel, is in blatant violation of federal antitrust law?” Yes, I was aware of the professional baseball antitrust exemption, but I didn’t understand why the exemption existed or why it wasn’t criticized. After a little research on the subject, I was left puzzled, to put it mildly, with Congress’ “positive inaction.”

U.S. antitrust law has roots dating back to the industrial revolution. The public learned about antitrust, in part, through famed political cartoonist Horace Taylor. Taylor satirized John D. Rockefeller, the antitrust poster-child, in the January 22, 1900 edition of the Verdict. With seeming foresight, Taylor depicted the oil tycoon in the foreground as a gruff twenty-story tall giant holding the Supreme Court Building in the palm of his hand, while the Capitol Building was rendered in the background as an industrial factory spouting smokestacks fully ablaze in profit-making force beyond bountiful and righteous oil fields. Selig and Steinbrenner are the prototype of Rockefeller’s shoes, except for one difference. The Supreme Court found Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company had violated antitrust laws in the seminal case, Standard Oil Co. v. U.S. Professional baseball and its team owners, unlike Rockefeller and other business owners, enjoy an antitrust exemption and have since 1922. Steinbrenner owes it all to Congress’ “positive inaction.”

The Supreme Court used Congress’ “positive inaction” to justify a baseball antitrust exemption via three cases, commonly referred to as the baseball antitrust exemption “trilogy.” First, Baseball Club of Baltimore, Inc. v. National League of Professional Baseball Clubs ruled (ridiculously – at least by today’s legal standards), that pro baseball is not interstate commerce but rather is an “exhibition” of state interest, and that its effects on interstate commerce are merely incidental. Second, Toolson v. New York Yankees, Inc. reasoned that Congress had lived with the holding in Baseball Club of Baltimore for thirty years, yet had not expressly made antitrust applicable to baseball. Thus, the court was unwilling to do so on its own. And finally, Flood v. Kuhn cited the “positive inaction” of Congress and, remarkably, accepted the Toolson logic on stare decisis grounds. Congress “positive inaction” with respect to the most recent antitrust exemption melee involving our beloved Twins is surprising, to say the least. Both Senators Wellstone and Dayton are passing up a great opportunity to once and for all make Minnesota a baseball market again that you can’t have your kayak and heat it, too.

This is a test. If you read this and don’t feel like smiling - even just a little bit - then you’ve been studying too hard. Take a break!

Two vultures board an airplane, each carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at them and says, “I’m sorry, gentlemen, only one carrion allowed per passenger.”

Finally, an Athletic Club without Dumbbells!

open to graduates of accredited colleges and universities
The Club’s President was once a struggling law student himself. Much to the dismay of our membership director, he’s offering William Mitchell students their first year of dues at the UClub for only $200!! Call now for details and information.

*continued on page 5
Although life during law school at William Mitchell College of Law was an exciting, if somewhat hectic, experience to find work and get feedback. In any event, I have found the experience as an attorney, and security of my previous position, was the best move I ever made. I was able to observe numerous trials, while in law school. Although I took a 50% pay-cut and lost the benefits of responsibility is greater as a corporate attorney, since I am now the Intellectual Property attorney for a number of business units and corporate functions within Cargill. Rather than the vertical oversight that exists in a law firm (such as partner review), I work directly with my colleagues for input and feedback when necessary. In addition, rather than focusing primarily on the litigation process, I am now focusing on the business goals and tailoring the legal advice to compliment those goals.

Finding the way to devote time to outside interests is always difficult in law practice. The amount of responsibility is greater as a corporate attorney, since I am now the Intellectual Property attorney for a number of business units and corporate functions within Cargill. Rather than the vertical oversight that exists in a law firm (such as partner review), I work directly with my colleagues for input and feedback when necessary. In addition, rather than focusing primarily on the litigation process, I am now focusing on the business goals and tailoring the legal advice to compliment those goals.

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This Forum is dedicated to William Mitchell's grading policy. Dean Henderson explains the policy in the interview he did with The Opinion on page 1, and a copy of the policy is re-printed here. 

Grades and the grading policy became a hot topic this past semester (even more so than usual) when some students discovered either their grades were changed, or their grades did not conform to grading criteria set by certain professors at the beginning of the semester. I have several friends who were in some of these classes, which are said to include Legislative Advocacy, ADR and Corporate Ethics and Decision Making. 

In order to determine what happened, I asked some people from these classes to share their stories with The Opinion. A few friends were kind enough to comply, although they were hesitant to disclose their identities. (Grades, as we all know, can be a very personal and sensitive subject and there’s not a lot of confidence in the system right now.) I agreed to withhold the names of these people, but I know many of you will recognize their stories as similar to your own. 

My goal with this Forum is to simply present information for your evaluation. After reviewing Professor Downs, Professor Breen, and the standards presented here, you may feel the policy is fair and was correctly applied; you may not. I would suggest that if you feel the policy is wrong or that it was unfairly applied, you should speak out. Professor Downs indicates in his interview that he is open to comments. Professor Jordan is also reviewing student concerns. You have the opportunity to create change. Use it or lose it.

Here are three stories for three different classes.

Misleading Grading Criteria - One Student’s Story

I was a student in Professor Breen’s Legislative Advocacy class. We were told at the beginning of the semester that we would be graded on three papers, and that class participation may count. Professor Breen changed her mind and instead of having us do a third paper, we did a group exercise. I received an A- on the first paper, an A on the second paper, and an A on the group exercise. I did not miss one class and participated in every class. According to the standards Professor Breen laid out (the first paper was only going to count for a small portion of the grade, and the other two papers for the majority), I should have received an A.

Grading Policy

The associate dean for academic affairs shall advise faculty members of the college’s grading policies, practices and typical grading curve. Prior to each grading period, the associate dean for academic affairs will distribute to the faculty information about past grading practices, including the typical grade distribution, the standards of performance, and the criteria for change for academic affairs or the dean of students shall review all grades prior to posting and, if necessary, the associate dean will discuss with the instructor the grade disparities with the appropriate faculty member.

Notice of Grading Criteria

If all or part of a course grade will be based on activities, standards, or tests other than a written examination at the end of the course, the instructor must announce the basis for grading before using those activities, standards, or tests, preferably at the beginning of the course.

Grade Changes

No grade, once submitted to the registrar, can be changed other than upon discovery of an arithmetical or recording error. No administrator or faculty member may undefer a grade for review or re-evaluate a faculty member’s exam for the purpose of changing the grade. This policy is subject to the rules established under the Policy Against Discrimination and the Policy Against Sexual Harassment. All grade changes must be approved by the associate dean for academic affairs. Students who have questions about a grade should contact the registrar.

William Mitchell’s Grading Policy - An Interview...

continued from page 1

Can the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs force professors or adjuncts to change their grades?

No. The professors and adjuncts turn in their grades to the Registrar, and then the raw scores are reviewed by Dean Brooks or one of the Associate Deans to see if they fall within the guidelines. There is no strict curve, so the review is subjective. The standards in the grading guidelines are for extreme variances from the typical grading practices of the College. The deans discuss the grades with a professor if the grades submitted are inconsistent with the guidelines, but the only power the deans have is to educate the professor about the College’s grading norms and to encourage the professor to grade accordingly. A dean cannot force the professor or adjunct to change the grades and has no authority to submit the grades to the other person for review.

May grades be changed once they are posted?

Once grades have been through the approval process and are posted officially to the student’s record by the Registrar, they may not be changed except for arithmetical or computational error. My understanding is that students who bookmarked their unofficial transcripts last semester were able to access their grades while we were working on them. The IS department has now corrected that situation. If students did get raw data prematurely, I can understand why they would be dismayed to see their grades changed. But the policy cuts both ways. Sometimes I encourage faculty to raise their grades; sometimes the opposite.

We have to speak with faculty only about changing grades each semester and then mostly with newer faculty. Our efforts are all part of trying to make sure that the 100-plus instructors at William Mitchell are all dedicated and all trying to do a good job - treat all students fairly. In general, grades are not formally posted until they have been through the approval process and once grades are posted to the student’s record, a grade may not be changed except for a legitimate grade change, such as use of a mathematical or computational error.

The grading policy posted on William Mitchell’s web-site states: “No grade, once submitted to the registrar, can be changed other than upon discovery of an arithmetical or recording error.” When is a grade “submitted to the registrar” for purposes of this policy? A grade is not submitted until the grade is on the student’s record in the registrar’s official record. Once a grade is posted to the student’s record, a grade may not be changed unless, of course, there has been an arithmetical or computational error because of an arithmetical or computational error.

It seems like grades take a long time to come out. Are there grading deadlines for professors and adjuncts?

Yes, there are deadlines under William Mitchell’s policy. All grades are aware of the policy and work hard to comply. We always seek to provide good service to our students by getting grades done in a timely manner. We do, however, allow for deadline extensions if there are compelling, extenuating circumstances justifying the extension. But even then, we seek to have grades turned in as quickly as possible.

What is a reasonable step for specific reasons a deadline for a specific professor might be extended. William Mitchell offers between 30 to 60 days each semester, which means there are nearly 50 persons involved. It could be that an illness or family emergency or some other compelling event may occur but generally, the faculty really do seek to submit grades on-time. I’m not aware of anyone who is shirking their responsibilities with respect to the grading deadline.

Who sets the grading policy? Can you amend it?

The full-time faculty establishes the College’s academic policy and the deans administer the policies. I fully support our grading policy and think the grading policy is prudent given the type of interdisciplinary and inter-disciplinary work we do. The Academic Affairs Committee is responsible for the policy. That being said, the grading policy has been discussed several times since I have been at William Mitchell (golly - almost twenty years now) and our policy is consistent throughout legal education, so I am not optimistic that any radical changes are forthcoming.

William Mitchell’s policy is one of the most open and honest policies on grading anywhere. If you are uncomfortable with the grade you receive, you have the opportunity to seek a re-evaluation and the faculty are not optimistic that any radical

changes are forthcoming.

Would you like to share any concluding comments?

These issues are important, I feel strongly about achieving grading parity, so I am glad to discuss concerns and the policies with students.

Post Script - After speaking with Professor Downs, I wanted to know what grades are actually final, i.e., once I see my grade I can no longer view grades while they are being worked on.

So the answer to my question seems to be this: if you are viewing your grades at the appropriate time, then if a grade is not re-reviewed, then that grade is final. If your grade is changed, then it is not final. However, if the grade changes are re-reviewed, then it is final. If you have questions about a grade or changes are forthcoming, you should speak with the faculty member.

Students view their grades on the Web by going to the William Mitchell Home Page (www.wmitchell.edu), clicking on the Registrar’s Office, Grades. The Grades page is password protected. Students who owe money to the college will not be able to view their grades. For grade security purposes, grades not given out over the telephone. There are no exceptions to this policy. An “NR” indicates that the student’s grade has not been approved to the Registrar’s Office.

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Meet Professor Port
continued from page 1
cipally litigants), one has to gradu-
ate from an undergraduate program in
take and law and take an entrance exam to
the Legal Training and Research
Institute run by the Supreme Court.
This is the only “begoshi” certifying
authority in all of Japan. They
currently admit only about 3,000 people a year.
This entrance exam has a passage rate of about 3% and
students sit for it an average of 6 times. It to offer a year.
Begoshi tend to be really smart
and rather wealthy people who are
used to working very long hours.
And so, they tend to know where the
best sushi restaurants are located.

Opinion: How do the Japanese
lawyers react to you?
Prof. Port: Because I speak the
language, I move about rather freely
and independently. Lawyers tend to
lawyers react to you?
And so, they tend to know where the
best sushi restaurants are located.

The Bar Exam: Another Test of
Your Mental Constitution?
continued from page 3
takers feel powerless without the benefit of their costly test-prepara-
tion classes. 5) Expose to complain, as
lawyers, and even as law students, we
are really part of an elite socio-
economic stratum of professionals. Of
course with the benefits of this
status come responsibilities to our
community, to the disenfranchised,
to preserving and protecting the
constitutional dictates and guaran-
tees of the state and federal
and, even to ourselves. Whence we venture out into the “real
world” with our2 recently minted dip-
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed
ultrices, in lobortis orci, sit amet faucibus velit.

What I expected was
Thunder, fighting
Long struggles with men
And climbing.

After continual straining
I should grow strong.
Then the rocks would shake
And I should rest long.
What I had never foreseen
Was the daily bed at 3:00 P.M.,
I rode my bike about 3 miles through
frozen, slushy streets to the closest
store that was open where I could
buy sushi. I guess that my favorite part
of Japan.

The least. Most people, me
included, hate the crowds in Japan.
Japan is, after all, very crowded.
Japan has 1/2 the population of the
U.S. and is about the size of
the state of California. Oh, and
it’s mountainous so people live in small
isolated pockets of flat land amount-
ing to something like 1/3 of all the
land in Japan. That’s like putting
1/2 the population of the U.S. into
1/3 of the state of California. Get the
picture? It’s crowded. The good news
is the Japanese birth rate is way
down. They expect Japan to drop to about 100 million (from its
current 125 million) by 2050. If you really hate crowds, you might want
to wait until 2050 to visit Japan.

Opinion: What do you hope to
accomplish, now that you are at
William Mitchell?
Prof. Port: I hope to further estab-
lish WM as a leading institution for
comparing Japanese and
American IP law.

What I had not foreseen
That, hanging solid,
Weakening the will
In their odd twist,
Corrupt, unsubstantial.

What I expected was
Like the created poem
Melting the bones with pity,
Melting the bones with pity,
Expected
Or the dazzling crystal.

It hadn’t occurred to me during
the day before the bar exam, I left
the house for a few minutes clad in
my flannel boy-pajamas, a hat, and a
patch of wiry looking silvery hairs on
the top of my head. Not only was I
graying, I was in the ugliest of
the possible fashions bright to hit the
booze and cigarette lobby; or
punishment for past-life acts.

That’s like putting a
1/3 of all the
state of California.

Perpetuities questions that I had all
able to answer the Rule Against
Exclusion. This isn’t the first legal
education obstacle I’ve surmounted
and it probably won’t be the last. I just
can’t help but feeling like most of the
hurdles and obstacles to practicing
law are totally unnecessary. They’re
like vestiges of the days when old
women were burned at the stake for
being exclusive clubs. It makes me fairly
despondent. Here I sit today, no longer
able to answer the Rule Against
Exclusion. Questions that I had all
mastered a few weeks ago, with
new ugly hairs still sprouting up from
the top of my head, mangled skull
and Bar Exam whining is far more
effective.

John who insist upon
a proximate result of my head and
my handicap so that if I failed the
exam would pause and stare at
you-you’re-probably-going-to-fail-
the exam, the rumor mill would spout
my handicap so that if I failed the
exam, the rumor mill would spout
some brighten to hold in trust,
For I had expected always
That, hanging solid,
Would dangle through all
Like the created poem
Or the dazzling crystal.

Yeah, I ended up taking the exam
after all - about fourteen hours later.
If my number isn’t on the list of pass-
ing students, I will naturally be a
proximate result of my head
and hand injuries. I was careful to make
sure that all of the other February
bar takers were taught the
management of my handicap so that if I failed the
exam, the rumor mill would spout
some more sympathetic sounding
pity for the friends occasionally
bought for me. Friends occasionally
bought for me.

expensive pantyhose are so
feet of expensive pantyhose are so
hours required to stay on the partner
course with the benefits of this
economic stratum of professionals. Of
lawyers, and even as law students, we

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tion and photo essay at
http://www.thesubscription
.com. A new issue of the
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The lack of good to touch
The pulverous grief
That, hanging solid,
Weakening the will
In their odd twist,
Corrupt, unsubstantial.

Some brightness to hold in trust,
For I had expected always
That, hanging solid,
Would dangle through all
Like the created poem
Or the dazzling crystal.
Courtroom Experience Required

By Lori L. Bower, 3L

On one day in February, I had my first encounter with our legal system and some real first-hand experience; I went to court... to dispute a traffic ticket. Because I am a first-year law student - rookie of the legal world - I was excited about the opportunity to experience the legal system first-hand. The experience, however, was not all I had hoped for. This was not just any traffic ticket; my ticket was a product of a brand new law passed in the spring of 2001. The fine for my ticket is not even listed on the fee schedule the officer so graciously handed me at the scene of the "crime." Ok - here's my public service announcement for the students of William Mitchell: When you are on a multiple-lane highway, you must change lanes to the furthest lane away from a parked emergency vehicle; it is now the law. While I agree it is common courtesy to give an officer or emergency vehicle; it is now the law. The experience, however, was not all I had hoped for. This was not just any traffic ticket; my ticket was a product of a brand new law passed in the spring of 2001. The fine for my ticket is not even listed on the fee schedule the officer so graciously handed me at the scene of the "crime." Ok - here's my public service announcement for the students of William Mitchell: When you are on a multiple-lane highway, you must change lanes to the furthest lane away from a parked emergency vehicle; it is now the law. While I agree it is common courtesy to give an officer or emergency vehicle some space on the side of the road, what if you have no space to give? My plan was to plead guilty with an excuse. My excuse was that I had no choice but to stay in the lane I was traveling in, because the car that was passing me on the left slowed down when he saw the emergency lights, preventing me from moving out of my lane in any reasonable way except to slam on my brakes and pass in an intersection. I learned in Torts class that there are some situations where citizens can legally not adhere to a statute if it would be dangerous to do so and I was all excited about going to court, so I could share my newfound knowledge with the judge. I researched the statutory history on Westlaw and I had a good legislative intent argument all cooked up. What I hadn't anticipated was how inefficient the county court system is. First, I had to sit in the courtroom forever. The court administrator didn't arrive until 8:45 a.m., while we were supposed to be seated and ready at 8:30. The prosecutors did not roll in until around 9:15, at which time they proceeded to munch on cookies and chat about the weather for the next 15 minutes. I was not especially pleased with this, because I was missing work to come and use "our system" so that justice might prevail in the situation with the prosecutor, he was totally rude. While I was sitting in there, I was thinking, if I didn't know anything about the law, I would be really confused. I would definitely think I did not have any good options. He made me feel like presenting my case to the judge was petty. And he made me feel like it was in my best interest to pay the ticket and get out of his hair which made me really angry. After my morning in court, there was no way I wanted to pursue the matter any further. I had already taken time off of work to sit around while everyone munched on their cookies, and I really had better things to do. I walked out of the courtroom feeling completely frustrated on that bright, February morning (which happened to be Valentine's Day although I did not get any love from the Washington County District Court). I understand the courts probably have to deal every day with traffic ticket cases and people whining about how they do not like the laws. (One lady outside the courtroom explained to me that her excuse for speeding was that the speed limit was too slow.) I can imagine how tiring that can be. But, when you have concerned citizen with a valid issue, I do not think he or she should have to walk out of court feeling like it was a big bother to come and use the system that is in place for that very reason. Maybe my experience is small, and I am just one person in a very big, clogged judicial system. And maybe my ticket was a deserved one. But as I go through law school, I plan to remember this experience. And whatever type of law I choose to practice, I plan to remember that all people deserve respect and fair treatment, from the felon to the loiterer, and from the elderly to juveniles. I don’t think being an attorney, judge or prosecutor gives you a license to be rude. Timeliness, a listening ear and respect are things all people deserve, no matter who they are.

Died September 11th

By Dan Gilchrist, 3L

New Year’s Day at my house was peaceful. It was a lazy, carefree day. The holidays were over and so was 2000. Having the day off from both work and school, I had time to reflect. I contemplated the passing of another year. The first year of the Third Millennium, 2001, was a year of loss. The U.S. economy had its first recession in a decade. Billions of dollars were lost in the capital markets. Tens of thousands of Americans lost their jobs. The world lost famous people like Dale Earnhardt, Carroll O’Connor and Jack Lemmon. Then, as things turned from summer to fall, America already looked bleak and as 2001 faded into sad remembrance, the year 2001 was a year of many losses, none greater than the passing of the World Trade Center and its inhabitants. A little part of us all died September 11th.

When the infamous hijackers used our planes to attack our country, we lost more than the lives of the 3,000 victims in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. We lost complete destruction. I found those photos or stories you would like to share for the next Opinion, contact next year’s Editor-in-chief at mkilgus@wmitchell.edu.

For additional articles about September 11th, refer to the November 2001 issue of The Opinion.

photograph the World Trade towers with a gravestone in the foreground? More ominous, how did I happen to choose that particular gravestone engraved “DIED SEPT. 11th”? My feeling of glib coincidence faded into sad remembrance. The year 2001 was a year of many losses, none greater than the passing of the World Trade Center and its inhabitants. A little part of us all died September 11th. The holidays were over and so was 2000. Having the day off from both work and school, I had time to reflect. I contemplated the passing of another year. The first year of the Third Millennium, 2001, was a year of loss. The U.S. economy had its first recession in a decade. Billions of dollars were lost in the capital markets. Tens of thousands of Americans lost their jobs. The world lost famous people like Dale Earnhardt, Carroll O’Connor and Jack Lemmon. Then, as things turned from summer to fall, America already looked bleak and as 2001 faded into sad remembrance, the year 2001 was a year of many losses, none greater than the passing of the World Trade Center and its inhabitants. A little part of us all died September 11th. When the infamous hijackers used our planes to attack our country, we lost more than the lives of the 3,000 victims in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. We lost complete destruction. I found those photos or stories you would like to share for the next Opinion, contact next year’s Editor-in-chief at mkilgus@wmitchell.edu.
During November and December, Dean Haynsworth attended the Minnesota Justice Foundation’s Annual Fall Fundraiser, the MBA Law School Gala, the Judicial Clerkship Reception at William Mitchell, meetings with the ABA Business Law Section in Washington, D.C., the Landmark Legal Series Advisory Committee, the Minnesota Zoo Board Governance Committee, the I-94 Signage Task Force, the Capital Campaign Steering Committee and the ELL Board of Directors. Dean Haynsworth also chaired the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) Cross Entity Merger & Conversion Drafting Committee meeting in New Orleans in late November. He hosted a retirement dinner for Paul Marino, a retirement luncheon for Judge Donald Lay, a farewell get-together for Aviva Breen, Dean’s Round Table sessions with Michael J. Miller, William Mitchell’s first Dean, at the WMCL Annual Holiday Party, and made welcoming remarks at the seminar on the afternoon of Sept. 13 presented at an ABA Law School Association meeting. Finally, Dean Haynsworth purchased at auction the Judge Charlie Brown statue and returned him to his place of honor at the main entrance of the college.

Over the holiday break, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Matthew Downs lectured on Corporate Governance: Fiduciary Duties of Directors and Officers to the graduate law students at Thammasat University, Faculty of Law, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Professor Peter Erlinder was interviewed November 6 by WCCO-TV about how unequal application of the traffic fine system disadvantages low-income drivers, and also on National Public Radio for a documentary on civil liberties after September 11. On October 31, Professor Erlinder presented a paper titled "Profiling and Individualized Suspcion," and on October 10, as part of the WMCL September 11 Series, he presented on the topic "American Constitution and Civil Liberties." As a guest speaker at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Center, Professor Erlinder presented the program "Civil Liberties in a Time of Undeclared War." He was also a guest lecturer at a human rights seminar at the University of Minnesota Law School. Additionally Professor Erlinder consulted with Japanese Lawyers in Tokyo, Japan, regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's recent expansion of a Japanese training ship. He was elected co-chair of the Residents Advisory Council, Moose Lake Program for School-Age Offenders, the council addresses due process and other issues in institutions. The University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law has published Professor Erlinder’s article titled "The Professor Marcia Gepe participated in an emergency meeting of the Israeli National Council on the environment during which she made a position on a recommended change in the planning law. She continued work on Israel’s National Steering Committee to Resolve the Water crisis on Israel’s National Taskforce on Enforcing Laws on Air Pollution from Automotive Sources. She was also involved with the Hong Kong Water Authority in a project for the Rapid Mediation and Dispute Resolution of Mediators and Negotiators in Governmental Agencies. The center, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy, is bringing two experts on the topic from the United States to Israel to run several workshops for senior staff and General Council of Government Ministries and local governments. At the request of the Ministry of Justice, Professor Gelpe has been working with the American experts, explaining to them how the legal and political arrangements in Israel differ from those in the U.S. and participating with them prepare their presentations. She has also arranged for the U.S. experts to speak to a group of stakeholders outside of Government. Additionally, she co-chaired a conference on Self-Reporting of Environmental Violations, Center for Environmental Law, Tel-Aviv, Israel. December 27. Professor Daniel Kleinberger finished official Comments to Uniform Limited Partnership Act (2001) in November. He was appointed by the Minnesota State Bar Association Business Law Section Executive Council as section's official observer to the NCCUSL Drafting Committee on the Conversion or Merger of Different Types of Business Organizations. From November 29 to December 2, Professor Kleinberger participated in a drafting session in New Orleans of NCCUSL Drafting Committee on the Conversion or Merger of Different Types of Business Organizations. On December 10, he testified to the Continuing Legal Education Board on the question of whether Elimination of Bias CLE credits should be limited to presentations that agree with the positions taken in the Supreme Court’s various bias reports. He has finished and submitted to the William Mitchell Center for the Law and Social Research the article titled “Making Happy Servants” and “Making Appearances Matter: A Critique of Bagot v. Airport & Airline Tax Cab Corporation.” As a member of the MSBA’s Chapter 302A Committee, Professor Kleinberger participated in drafting amendments to the state corporate law facilitating the use of electronic communications and transmission of documents to convert into Minnesota LLCs and vice versa, and he drafted corresponding amendments for the Minnesota limited liability company act.

Professor Christina Kunz participated on a December 5 Defense Research Institute panel in Chicago on E-Commerce Developments. She spoke on “Validity of Misunderstanding in Click-through Agreements.” From January 13 to 19, she presented at the AALS Annual Meeting in New Orleans: “Teaching Critical Reading Skills in Contracts Class,” “Meaningful Feedback Means in Onal Classes,” and “Teaching About Click-through Agreements in Contracts, Commercial Code Courses and Drafting Courses.” Professor Kunz also published an article on click-through agreements in the November 2001 issue of the ABA’s Business Lawyer.

Professor Michael Schmedmenn attended the Supreme Court Update Annual Labor and Employment Law Institute in Minneapolis on November 15-16. He participated in an MSBA Labor and Employment Law Section Web site and editor of the MSBA LELS newsletter.

Professor Christine Ver Ploeg spoke at the Annual Public Sector Labor Conference in Minneapolis. On November 30 she spoke at the Labor Arbitration Institute’s annual New England conference in Boston. During the first week of January, Professor Ver Ploeg was a visiting faculty scholar at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University School of Law. She was working in the area of “Dispute Resolution in Education.”

Forum - Changing Grades

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It was a grade that was lower than the grade I had earned, and lower than the grade that was posted only one week before.

As an student, I decided to question why my grade was changed. I questioned the professor about why my final grade did not reflect the grades I had received throughout the semester. The professor's answer was that she was told by one dean at William Mitchell to change the grades, and that she regretted doing so. To make matters worse, she suggested that she arbitrarily changed some of the grades. This was later confirmed after speaking to other students in the class.

I sent the professor an email telling her that I would go talk to the dean about the process. But why should a dean be able to change grades? Although the dean may not be the person actually changing the grade, I believe that the dean's strong suggestion to the professor should really be believed. The grades should be changed. It is unfair to a dean who never observed the class and who does not know the expectations of the professor to suggest that the professor change the grades of students. If the professor believes that grades should be above the school's recommended average, then the professor should have the right to give those grades.

The school policy states that a grade cannot be changed after it has been posted. My grade was placed on my transcript for two days. I think this should be a new process that should prevent the registrar from posting any grades, whether officially or unofficially, until they have been reviewed by the proper authorities.

One Professor’s E-mail to His Class

You are entitled to an explanation regarding class participation grades, which I assume are lower than expected. This is because I was advised by the school that the grade curve for my class was too high, and went against the school's efforts to eliminate grade inflation. At the point at which I was made aware of this problem, I had already posted my midterm and final paper grades, leaving only the participation grades as a means of reducing the curve. Prior to receiving this notice from the school, I had been unaware of William Mitchell's concerns about grades for courses of fewer than 40 students.

Although each of you received fewer class-participation points than I had originally intended, in making the adjustments I endeavored to ensure your relative class participation rankings would remain intact.

"In adjusting the class participation grades, I tried to make the best of a bad situation. Now that I am aware of the grading policy in other courses and in smaller classes, I completely understand why it was necessary to reduce the curve in the class. I also completely understand that as students, you would be angered by the situation. You were an excellent class with terrific levels of high quality participation in class discussions. People in other classes who could come up with a better solution to the situation, but I am afraid I am unable to do so. I do not pretend that I am one of the American experts, but I hope you each have ended up with the grade you would have received had I known from the outset the school's requirements regarding the grade curve for the class."

"I apologize. This problem arose as a result of a miscommunication between William Mitchell and myself, and I am very sorry that it has led to almost all of you receiving lower grades than you probably expected as a result of my knowledge of your midterm and final examination grades."
CAREER COLUMN

Contributed by Kari Jensen Thomas, Associate Director for Career Services

We hope you are enjoying the spring 2002 semester. We have lots of exciting career-related events scheduled this spring and as always, are here to assist you with your job search. Feel free to stop by our office, call us or e-mail us if you have any questions.

Given the current state of the legal job market, we thought it would be useful to give you some pointers on how to find jobs that are not necessarily on your local job boards.

1) Write an article

Volunteer to write an article for your school newspaper or local or national legal state bar association newsletter involving your dream career, be it a profile of a prominent lawyer who does what you want to do, or a brief discussion of a cutting-edge issue. Publications like these are always crying out for articles. You'll have fun, make valuable contacts, and learn a lot.

2) Do extracurricular activities

Take part in extra curricular activities that have to do with what you'd like to do when you go to school. In doing so you will automatically come into contact with people who can - and will - help you on your way.

3) Go to lectures and programs

Go to programs put on by speakers who do what you want to do. If nothing else, go up to them afterwards, talk to them if you enjoyed what they said (everyone responds to honest compliments), and ask what steps you ought to take to follow in their footsteps. Most speakers truly enjoy being helpful - that's why they speak in the first place!

4) Ask for advice from lawyers

Remember: Don't despair! Our associate director for career services counselor knows, 'If you know the people, you know the market.'

5) Talk to alumni

You are the natural object of bounty for alumni from both your graduate school and your undergraduate school. While it's a mistake to ask anybody for a job, it is wise and very useful to ask for advice from alumni. Approach your alumni relations director for information on alumni who do what you want to do.

6) Post messages on the Bar Association message board

Find the Internet address for your state and local bar association, get on the message board for your particular specialty (or the geographic location where you'd like to work), and post a message asking for advice about breaking in. If you read a comment from a lawyer and it impresses you, specifically ask that person for advice. More and more lawyers are becoming Internet savvy, and this is a fertile source of easy-to-make contacts.

7) Be a volunteer

Volunteer at conferences and seminars involving the area you want to go into. You never know about them from either professional publications or postings at school. By volunteering instead of just attending - even if it involves just helping attendants, handling name tags, running errands, pouring punch - you've automatically "broken the ice," and talking to people after a class is a piece of cake.

First year students:

Congratulations on completing your first semester of law school! Now that you've survived the first round of exams and are settled into this semester, it is time to start thinking about what you want to do this summer. We have enjoyed meeting with most of the full-time first year students during your assigned appointment times, and look forward to meeting with many part-time students as well.

During the 1L appointments, we gave each of you a copy of the National Associate for Law Placement (NALP) article "The Toughest: One-L during the Economic Downturn" (which is available in the Annex). According to this article:

"For the short-term, these are not as dismal as it may seem right now - and for the long-term, assuming that you strive for a strong academic performance in law school, take advantage of the opportunities which will add to your credentials, and are diligent in your networking and Job searching your job prospects may be positively rosy. This is because the legal job market, like all niche markets, is cyclical and highly responsive to economic market conditions. And as every law school career services counselor knows, 'there will always be good jobs for good lawyers.'"

This article from NALP is designed to help first year law students with four essential tasks:

1. To increase your understanding of the cyclical nature of the legal job market, including how general market conditions affect summer employment and hiring of first year law students,

2. To give advice as you undertake a 'smart' job search effort as a first year,

3. Help you fully utilize your law school resources, especially your career services offices and counselors, as allies in your job search;

4. Enhance your employability by giving you insight on the importance of academic excellence, innovative thinking and participation in valued work or volunteer activities.

Calendar correction:

The Opinion's last calendar listed John F. Kennedy day and then said: "The only thing we have to fear is..." - the implication of course being that this was a Kennedy quote. The quote is: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," and those words were spoken by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The Opinion apologizes for the error.

Paul Marino

Champion for the Powerless

continued from page 1

covenants of habitability. Paul became the Legal Aid Society's Executive Director in 1970, and held that position until January 2001 when he joined the faculty at William Mitchell College of Law. During his twenty-seven years at William Mitchell, Paul taught numerous courses-Torts, Evidence, Employment Law, Work of the Lawyer, and Professional Responsibility. Along with his friend Bernard Becker, who joined the William Mitchell faculty a year before Paul did, Paul founded William Mitchell's Immigration Law Clinic. During Paul's years at William Mitchell, he earned the admiration and affection of thousands of students, particularly in the area of dramatic flair that he brought to the classroom, and enjoyed his use of props and a "class villian" carefully chosen to be the good-natured foil for various hypothetical situations addressed in class discussions. Students appreciated Paul's concern and approachability—Paul always welcomed the professor most likely to be found talking to students in the student commons. He participated in extracurricular programs for students, advising client counseling competition students, judging moot court arguments, and presenting diversity programs on discrimination and the practice of law.

In addition to his teaching duties at William Mitchell, Paul continued his interest in and support of legal assistance to the poor. Paul was instrumental in the development of the Legal Aid Society of Hennepin County, Minnesota Bar Association and Minnesota Bar Association committee on pro bono services or pro bono work they are doing now."

Paul also was very active in the National Lawyers Guild. He served on the Minnesota Chapter's steering committee and for fourteen years was the president of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. He played a key role in the National Lawyers Guild's role in the protests "For by his many friends and relatives across the country, by the many clients he served so well, and by the thousands of students of law, Paul's career is probably summarized best by his own words that appear in his faculty homepage on the William Mitchell web site: "As an attorney and law professor, I have tried to provide effective legal representation and voice to those who too often are left behind economically or face discrimination in our nation. Nothing makes me prouder than former law students who tell me that I helped spark their interest in the legal services or pro bono work they are doing now."
April

4/12 - 4/14
EtrABBaGanza
Ted Mann Concert Hall - MPLS
by Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus
Admission - $15-$25
For more info - www.tcmc.org
Or call the TCQM Office at 612-339-7666

4/19 - 4/20
Minnesota Twins vs. Cleveland Indians
Metrotown
Call Ticketmaster for details

4/21
MS Walk
Penguins required
13 sites around MINNESOTA
For more info - www.themswalk.com or 612-335-7900

4/22
WMCL Classes Makeup for MLK Day
WMCL

4/23 - 4/25
WMCL Reading Days Begin

4/24 - 4/25
70th Annual Festival of Nations Downtown St. Paul
Admission $6-$8
For more info - www.festivalofnations.com

4/26 - 4/27
St. Paul Art Crawl - “Art for your Life”
Rossmoor Building
4/26 - 6:10pm - 4/27 - 1-6pm
550 N Robert
For more info - www.stpaul-artcraw.com
St. Paul, MN 55102

4/27
Vamandijubi-muted The American Swedish Institute, MPLS
(The Värmland jubile) - American Swedish Institute
Admission - $8-$10
Call 612-871-4907 for more info

May

5/1 - 5/12
Crazy Days Festival Downtown North St. Paul
For more info - 651-296-0792

5/4
Macalester College Graduation
9am - 6pm
Macalester Campus
Shaw Field
For more info call 651-699-0029

5/5
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
District del Sol along Concord Street,
For more info call - 952-920-0681

5/7
WMCL Spring Semester Exams WCML
For more info - gpesek@wmitchell.edu

5/8 - 5/11
Mother’s Day Brunch Starts at 10am Minnesota Zoo
For more info call - 651-696-6239

5/9
MS Walk
Register to walk - 612-373-2411
For more info call - 612-373-2411

5/10 - 5/11
In the Mood Festival Opener
International Falls, MN
For more info - 218-840-9401 or 1-800-325-5766

5/12
Mother's Day Brunch
Starts at 10am
Minnesota Zoo
Admission - $19.95 Adults $7.95 youths (6-12) $3.95 children (3-5)
For more info - 612-430-9500

5/14 - 5/21
Hopkins Raspberry Festival Hopkins, MN
For more info call - 612-203-9911 or 651-633-2053

5/15
Hopkins Raspberry Festival
For more info - www.hopkins-raspberry-festival.org
or www.hopkins-raspberry-festival.org

6/1 - 6/7 St. Paul Saints vs. Sioux Falls
Midway Stadium
For more info - 612-779-2977

6/1 - 6/2
Flint Hills International Children's Festival
Owatonna, MN
For more info - call 612-244-4222 or www.owatonna.org

6/2 - 6/3
Grand Old Day
Grand Avenue, St. Paul
Event is free, but a wristband fee is needed to get in the beer.
For more info - 612-699-0029

6/2 - 6/13 Back to the 50’s Weekend
MN State Fair Grounds
Sponsored by the Minnesota Street Rod Association
For more info - www.mrsa.org

6/6 - 6/7
25th Annual Mrs. Minnesota Pageant
Fitzgerald Theater
Tickets are $65-$65 and go on sale 6/10
For more info - 952-920-0681

6/16 - 6/17
Marshall Fields Challenge
Rush Creek Golf Club
For more info - www.marlhallfieldschallenge.org

6/29 - 6/30
GLBT Pride Festival and Parade (6/30)
Hennepin Ave to Loring Park
For more info - call 952-996-9250 or www.tcfpride.com

6/30 - 7/4
Taste of Minnesota
Capital Grills, St. Paul
For more info - www.tasteoffm.org

July

7/3 - 7/4
Hogwarts 3rd Annual Harry Potter Weekend
Downtown Minneapolis
For more info - 612-873-9123

7/3 - 7/21
Hopkins Raspberry Festival
For more info - 952-920-0681 or 612-823-4581
www.hopkins-raspberry-festival.org

7/12 - 7/14
Heritagefest
11am - midnight
New Ulm, MN
For more info - 507-384-8350 or www.heritagefest.net

7/12 - 7/13
Mpls Aquatennial Block Party
Hennepin Ave., MPLS
For more info - www.basliecblockparty.com

7/19 - 7/21
Mpls Aquatennial 2002
Mpls Aquatennial Block Party
6pm - 12:00am
Downtown, MPLS
For more info - www.aquatennial.org

7/20
Lifetime Fitness Triathlon
$56-$200
Lake Nokomis Park
For more info - 952-229-7227 or www.lifetimefitness.com

TBA
Rockin' Ribfest
Downtown MPLS
For more info - 612-873-9123

August

8/1 - 8/3
WM Fest
Detroilet, MI
For more info - 218-847-1681 or 1-800-496-FEST

8/3 - 8/5
Loring Park Art Festival
Loring Park
For more info - 612-203-9911 or 612-633-2053

8/10 - 8/11
Irish Fair
Hamlet Island, St. Paul, MN
For more info - 952-920-9191

8/19 - 8/21
WMCL Orientation
WMCL
Contact Student Services for details.

8/22
WMCL Fall Classes Begin

8/23 - 8/25
Honoring the Elders Pow-wow
Pipestone, MN
For more info - 507-825-3734 or 612-594-3851

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SBA Update

By Suzette Kusnierek, SBA President

Well here it is the end of the year. It seems like just yesterday that I was welcoming all the students back to classes. Oh how time flies! I hope all of you had a safe and productive year. I want to take the time to congratulate the first years on struggling through the trauma of first year, and I only have one thing to say: Don’t look back, you are almost done!

As the year closes so does my tenure on the SBA. I have enjoyed serving on the board for the last three years and getting involved with people that I might not otherwise have met. I wish the new board the best of luck in dealing with all the issues that face them in the future, and invite anyone to attend (yes, even after I graduate) if there are any questions that they have. I have tried to make the SBA more visible and a stronger function of the school. I hope that in the future this strength

Student Intellectual Property Association

By Gretchen Pesek, President

SIPLA - Students Into Planning Lots of Activities, or officially Student Intellectual Property Law Association, continues its resolution to keep those winter pounds off by committing to more events for the duration of the school year. To combat that pesky senioritis, elec-

tors for next year’s officers were held at the March 6 meeting. This ensured a smooth transition and allowed members with a vested interest to keep the organization healthy. A roundtable spotlighting technology licensing was held March 20, and the Law Review’s Entertainment Law Symposium slated for April 5 is eagerly anticipated by all. There will be a final business meeting in April and one last session after finals to refresh everyone’s souls.

With respect to future planning, SIPLA would like to thank those who have completed and returned the survey that was recently distributed via email. It is an opportunity for us to gauge how much, or how little, interest exists regarding intellectual property here at Mitchell and to incorporate the findings into next year’s schedule. Of course, the opportunity to give away sought-after mystery prizes is a mere bonus. With energy at a high and no cool-down in sight, SIPLA looks forward to leading the spring events, and as always, new members are welcome.

If you are interested in SIPLA, please contact Gretchen Pesek at gpesek@wmitchell.edu.
January 12, 2000

Dear Law School Graduates,

PMBR is an absolute must! My state review course was good for the essays, but I didn’t rely on them for the Multistate. I found the PMBR questions to be much more difficult and very representative of the actual questions on the MBE.

I was worried about the MBE because I had experienced problems with standardized tests in the past. That’s why I enrolled in both the PMBR 6-Day and 3-Day courses in order to maximize my performance on the MBE.

Thanks to PMBR I received a scaled score of 175 on the MBE and only missed 32 questions. Hands down, PMBR has the best materials for MBE preparation. I have told all of my friends that they would be insane not to take PMBR. I highly recommend it to everyone who wants to get an “Edge” on the Bar Exam!

Sincerely
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