Dean Precht Leaving M-Law: Reflections on Public Service

By Karen Lockman

As students prepare to decide their professional destinies at Early Interview Week, Dean of Public Service Robert Precht gets ready to embark on his own new challenge. Precht has decided to leave his position with the law school and devote himself to a full-time writing career. Precht plans to depart September 6, prior to the start of the school year. He plans to join his partner in California, and will begin work on a biography of his grandfather, Ed Sullivan.

As students press their suits, research firms and anxiously measure themselves against the prototypical law student, Precht offers words of caution and encouragement.

Do not tailor yourself to your job - Tailor your job to your talents

"The biggest mistake students make is to try and alter themselves to fit the law firms. This is a sure way for one to end up unhappy in his or her career," warns Precht. "Instead, students should reach inside themselves and recognize their own talents."

Precht stresses: "Every student has unique talents. The key to job satisfaction is to know what they are, and to use those talents frequently."

While he recognizes the symbiotic relationship between law firms and law schools, Precht finds it a crime that the somewhat arbitrary ranking system and competitive atmosphere divests many gifted students of their self esteem. Furthermore, he encourages all students to look beyond the lucrative appeal of law firms and see the many fascinating alternatives for students to fully utilize their talents.

"By choosing a job that does not employ your talents, not only do you rob yourself of your happiness, but you deprive society of your endless potential," he said.

Using his talents - Helping society

Precht teaches by example. Growing up in the shadow of his prominent grandfather, Ed Sullivan, Robert Precht decided early on to pursue a distinct career and create an identity of his own.

Though he struggled in choosing a specific direction, he was drawn to the study of law. "Law is the language of power in our society," explains Precht. "Law school illustrates how our society works in this world, and offers great training for any career."

Precht received a bachelor's degree in History from Northwestern University and then earned his J.D. at the University of Wisconsin Law School. While he spent a short time working for a law firm, he found the work unappealing.

Subsequently, Precht devoted his next 13 years to his job as a public defender at the Legal Aid Society in New York. In this capacity, he represented the lead suspect in the World Trade Center bombing case. Last year, he described this experience in his first published book, Defending Mohammad, which discusses his role in the case and provides insight into the

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Course Schedules Could Use Greater Student Input

It's true; law students like to complain. But the complaining about this academic year's course schedule was noteworthy. Many students interested in intellectual property, criminal law, and public interest law found little to register for, or had a tough time squeezing into a few sections. Some 1Ls, moving into their second year from a record-sized class of 400 students, are only registered for 2 or 3 classes after an (obviously) frustrating registration process. A quick look into how the Law School course schedule coalesces gives a better insight to the pressures the school faces in making a schedule workable for both students and faculty; that said, there are areas in which more student involvement may stave off frustration.

The law school course schedule starts when the faculty submits their teaching plans for the following academic year. Once all of this information is collected, Dean Croley and Dean Baum determine whether the plans cover the first-year and upper-class curricula. Based on student demand over the past several years, they ascertain how many sections of the upper-class "core" courses (Enterprise Organization, Evidence, and so on) the school needs.

Any perceived gaps in curriculum (which occur because of faculty sabbaticals or other leaves, recent retirements, or changes of interest) are filled by finding those among the faculty who are willing to fill them and also by inviting visiting and adjunct faculty to teach.

The schedule is then put together in a way that tries to balance classrooms and times so as to not create too much conflict. Dean Baum briefly listed a slice of the pressures the school faces when building the schedule: "Faculty A/V needs, spreading their courses throughout the day in the way they like, the special scheduling needs of adjunct or visiting faculty who are coming from other cities, and several other factors," he said.

After the rough schedule is created, the faculty and others (like Virginia Gordon, the Assistant Dean for International Affairs who is particularly knowledgeable about the scheduling needs of LLM students) review the schedules and give feedback.

Feedback about a missing course will be considered by Dean Baum and Dean Croley, and if it's decided to create that course, Dean Croley will try to find a faculty member (either here or elsewhere) to fill a perceived gap in the schedule.

"Note that the process is a fluid one, which is to say that even after Dean Croley gives me the list of courses, I build a draft of the schedule and we get the first round of feedback, we often get more late-breaking courses to add to the schedule both before, during and after pre-registration because of things like new faculty hires, new visiting professors, changes in sabbatical or other plans, etc. Unfortunately, for these same reasons, we sometimes have to cancel courses."

Baum continued, "Students are always welcome to write me with suggestions for courses or constructive criticism about the schedule or curriculum; I share them all with Dean Croley, and we consider everything seriously."

Students were successful in adding a Copyright class based on demand, and another will be added to the Winter schedule. Criminal Justice, Critical Race Theory, and a second section of Evidence will also be added to the Winter schedule.

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And We’re Back:
Caminker Provides Preview of New Year

By Dean Evan Caminker

Welcome back, everyone, to the beginning of a new fall term. Yes, you are in the right place, even though if you watched the final episode of ER a few months ago you might mistakenly think the Quad is supposed to be a hospital complex. Ignoring the adage that life imitates art, the Law School faculty will leave both the thrill of emergency medicine and the agony of unrequited romance to others and will instead continue to focus on providing you with a top-flight legal education, including encouraging you to learn appropriate methods of legal reasoning, exposing you to the knowledge and expertise of other complimentary disciplines, and providing you opportunities to master lawyering skills through the Legal Practice Program, clinics, workshops, and pro bono experiences. Whether you are just arriving for the first day of law classes, or are already counting the days to commencement, you can look forward to an exciting and challenging academic year. Of course, you might be in a different place psychologically, depending on whether you’re just starting or close to finishing. If you’re the former, prepare for an experience that will feel like the educational equivalent of drinking from a fire hose. If you’re the latter, and time seems to be standing still, you might recall the sage prophecy of that American icon, Dan Quisenberry, former relief pitcher for the Kansas City Royals, an expert in corporate criminality, with interests more generally in corporate law, securities fraud and regulation, corporate and managerial liability, and law and economics.

A new Assistant Professor, Alicia Davis Evans, comes from private practice where she was first an investment banker and then a corporate lawyer focusing on mergers and acquisitions and leveraged buyout transactions. Her initial scholarly agenda includes securities and business law issues. Finally, a new clinical professor, Roschna Price, joins our Legal Assistance for Urban Communities Clinic. An alumna of this School, she comes to us from private practice in Detroit, in which her responsibilities included providing a full array of business legal services to corporations, partnerships, and other entities. We’re very excited about each of these additions, and hope you’ll join us in welcoming them to the School.

Over the summer we’ve continued to upgrade our physical facilities, extending wireless coverage into some new significant spaces (including 5-1 of the underground library) and improving the acoustics in Room 100, among other renovation projects. Please be patient as we undertake the difficult engineering task of equipping these gorgeous and grand old buildings with modern-day technologies, and continue our fundraising efforts to expand the Quad.

And as always, this year we will host a number of significant legal and political figures to interact with students and faculty in various ways, offering you a diverse range of viewpoints on pressing issues of national and global significance. Just to highlight three already scheduled, in October the William W. Bishop, Jr. Lecture in International Law will be delivered by Mary Robinson, one of the world’s preeminent champions of international human rights. As the President of Ireland from 1990-1997, she worked to improve conditions for marginalized groups in Ireland and brought significant attention to the needs of developing nations in crisis. She was the first head of state to visit Somalia in 1992 and post-genocide Rwanda in 1994. While the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997-2002, she worked to integrate human rights into all of the UN’s activities.

In November, the Law School will host Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia for a couple of days as a Helen L. DeRoy Fellow, established to bring distinguished lawyers and public figures to the Law School to support its educational mission. During the course of his visit, Justice Scalia will meet with students and faculty members, participate in the teaching of one or more classes, and give a public address. And in January, D.C. Court of Appeals Judge (and alumnus) Harry Edwards will participate in our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program by hosting a public forum. Other high-profile practitioners, policymakers, and politicians of varied specializations, experiences, and ideologies will come speak to you throughout the year – make sure you take advantage of these and many more opportunities to broaden your intellectual and professional horizons!

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A Look into the Past, Present and Future with Professor Whitman

By Matt Nolan and Mike Murphy

Christina B. Whitman holds three degrees from the University of Michigan, including a law degree and a graduate degree in Chinese literature. She joined the Michigan law faculty in 1976, after serving as law clerk to Judge Harold Leventhal of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and to Justice Lewis Powell of the Supreme Court of the United States. Whitman is also a professor of Women’s Studies at the University and served as associate dean for academic affairs for the Law School from 1997-2001. Professor Whitman took a half hour to speak with the RG last week.

RG: You grew up around here, right?

W: I’ve been here since 1964, but was born in Northern Illinois. It was a really nice time to come to Michigan — when I started here it was still very much a sorority/fraternity based campus. The U.S. started bombing North Vietnam during my freshman year, and so the anti-war and civil rights movements both were really starting to take off during that time.

RG: What’s the biggest demonstration you saw?

W: The national guard was called out because riots were feared after Kent State — South University and State Street were lined with them, it was quite a moment.

RG: Did you go straight through school or take time off?

W: When I graduated undergrad I had an English degree and thought I wanted to go to grad school for it, but grad school was discouraged for women and they told us they only wanted to train teachers — so I turned to my Chinese training and got my Masters in far eastern languages and literature. I graded for a Chinese philosophy professor — it was such a great field to study. Classes were basically a group of people sitting around looking over a text together, very fun. My husband was in law school while I was in graduate school so I had to decide what to do, and after learning a lot about draft law being around his friends, I took a year off to make my mind up. I got heavily involved in the women’s movement during that year, and realized if I wanted to be taken seriously as a professional I would need a career that would be flexible and work well. Law was much more flexible than Chinese, so I decided to go to law school. I thought I was giving up on my dream of being an academic by going to law school, which was really hard for me to do... but it just seemed “mature.” I realized I knew a lot about China and not much about my own country, and because of the politics I really wanted to learn more. The chance at a real profession wasn’t common for women back then, and law school amazingly equipped me to get a job, something English and Chinese hadn’t done. My husband graduated three years before me and there were maybe 8 women in his class, and my year we had about one-third women — it was a transforming time. Women started to think about law as a real possibility — most of our friends until then were men married to women working secretarial jobs to put them through law school — a very different culture. I went to school and everything was being contested, it was such an exciting time. When I was a candidate for Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review I had a friend tell me he would not support me because I was married, and part of a woman’s job was to make sure her husband had a hot meal on the table at night — you couldn’t imagine that now.

RG: What made you want to join the faculty then, if you thought you were giving up academic life?

W: Schools were under huge pressure to hire women, and I had good grades and was editor in chief of the law review, so I was much in demand — the Michigan faculty actually gave me an offer to join the faculty before I graduated. If they hadn’t, my husband would have left his job and we would have moved to Washington — I went there for two years to clerk, and when I came back Sally Payton was starting at the same time, so I wasn’t the only woman here, which was nice. Harry Edwards, who is now a judge for the D.C. Circuit, was an African American professor who really helped me think about what it would mean to be the “first of a sort” to be a professor, and I think Michigan was much more welcoming than most toward women. It couldn’t have hurt that I knew most of the faculty, either. I do have to admit that it was terrible to finish that third year worrying about being called on and humiliating myself in front of the professors, though.

RG: So you went and clerked then.

W: I was Judge Leventhal’s first woman clerk on the D.C. Circuit — he hired me because of my Chinese background. Then I clerked for Justice Powell on the U.S. Supreme Court, who was a very important person for me.

RG: What was the difference in the two for your experience?

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him, so I wrote the opinion and then wrote a note criticizing the opinion — he then changed his mind, saying something like, “I’m sure Congress didn’t know what it was doing.” The best part again about the whole process was working with the other clerks, I just really loved it. I think it’s kind of amazing that the legal profession provides that opportunity to be so engaged in the process right out of law school. I think there are really interesting ethical issues that clerks have to grapple with. When you think about how much judges have to decide, they really do have to lean on clerks for information — they really are dependent. So then after that, I came back to Michigan and started teaching.

RG: Do students today take a different attitude toward law school than they did 30 years ago?

W: Well obviously there are a lot more women now — before every woman who came here had had to go through some resistance to get here, whether from her family, husband, etc. Now that’s not the case — it’s just one more degree now, same reason men come here. Students are much more worried about their professional future now. When I started here more people were more political, that has decreased very significantly. Students don’t feel as at risk today as they did then, and there are many more conservative students here than there were then. Now there are students who have grown up since the Ronald Reagan era, and that’s a big change.

RG: Do you think students are more or less focused on their profession than before, or is that the same?

W: I think the legal profession has changed a lot. It used to be that a big law firm would be 25-30 people, you would be good friends with your clients and it was much more local — that’s not the case anymore. It was much more personal. Firms’ competition is much more dramatic now, much more expensive, requiring more hours of work from students — I think expectations of what being a lawyer is have changed, which has consequently changed the type of people who become lawyers. Being a lawyer is still a way to give yourself an entrance into the world, and you can still do so many different things. One of my former students is now president of ABC News — he started as an attorney doing work for them. Some of my most happy former students are those who have moved into other types of work.

RG: What was it like having your daughter come here to law school?

W: I was really worried about it in the beginning — it helped that I was taking a lot of leave after becoming associate dean, and it was wonderful for us to get to know her as an adult. I think it helped me in thinking about what law school is like from the students’ perspectives. I had forgotten how many demands there are on students outside of the classroom, and not even just extracurriculars, but things like finding an apartment and making sure your car’s working, etc. I liked her friends — some were my students and some not. She’s going to Kalamazoo this year and it will be the first time I haven’t had any children in Ann Arbor since I started having them, so that will be an adjustment — but we have computers with cameras on them, so technology will keep us going.

RG: What’s the focus of your research?

W: Mostly on constitutional litigation, suits against governments for violating constitutional rights. I started it as a way to continue a conversation with Justice Powell, where I thought the justice system should be used to push constitutional rights, and he had a very different conception of the system. I started writing in that area, and just kept going. One of the themes of my work has been that injunctions are and should be easier to get than damages, and I feel quite vindicated because the courts have been going in that direction. After getting
CONTINUED from Previous Page

tenure I also got interested in feminist jurisprudence – I don’t know that there’s a connection in that timing, but maybe there was. I started teaching a seminar in feminist jurisprudence, and really enjoyed that as well.

RG: Are you teaching in the fall?

W: I’m teaching Torts in the fall – it connects nicely to my work. I think of Torts and the Federal Courts litigation as connected. When I first started teaching the students were all pro-plaintiff, so I would always argue pro-defendant. There was a period where they started changing and starting taking the defendant and willing to blame plaintiffs for their injuries, so I’ve become more plaintiff in class – it’s been a big change in teaching Torts over the years.

RG: Was that a gradual shift or did it happen at some point in time?

W: I think the early 80s it really shifted dramatically, partly due to the advertising by the insurance agency, but also due to the increase in political conservatism. I like teaching torts partially because people do come to law school with views about it, more-so than most courses...

RG: Definitely more than Property.

W: Well and many have experiences, or have parents who are doctors or whatnot and it’s fun. It’s fun to make people learn different perspectives. I actually had a student in torts once who was an emergency room doctor who at the beginning was just SO anti-plaintiff, and during the course of the term he injured his hand and the doctor didn’t set it right – for the rest of the term he was much more pro-plaintiff, raising his hand to demonstrate – it was really fun. The guy who’s arguing the pledge of allegiance was a student of mine, so that’s been fun too – he was also an emergency room doctor. It’s fun to have doctors in class.

RG: Are you teaching any seminars this year?

W: I’m teaching Federal Courts and my Supreme Court litigation seminar this year.

RG: What has been your favorite class to teach, ever?

W: I have examples of all of them that I’ve taught – I’ve had great and terrible Torts classes. I loved teaching the 14th amendment the semester I had a lot of Canadians in class – they had such a different perspective. I think my favorite would be my feminist seminars. I used to teach that in my home close to the law school at night and it was a relatively small group, and I liked it in the years when people were just learning about feminist ideas. You could really have an impact on their lives. I really enjoyed teaching the pornography week we taught to the entire law school back in the early 90’s – it was a powerful week for the students, and very fun to teach. It would evoke such strong emotions from people and was difficult, but you really felt people were seeing things in dramatically different ways as a consequence.

RG: How long would you like to teach, and at the end what would you like to be remembered for?

W: That’s a good question. I’d like to teach as long as I can be effective at it. knew when I started that I liked to talk and think about ideas but teaching is a lot more lonely than that – most of the day you’re just sitting around thinking, and the classroom is really the exciting part of the day. I love the rhythms of academic life, where you always have a fresh start – both students and faculty. I’d like to be the professor that made people see things in a way they hadn’t before, helping them become more empathetic, helping them be the best they could be, helping them find who they were. That’s why I think seminars are so fun. First years are also more fun for that reason. Law professors are so lucky to see and be a part of so many people coming here and deciding who and what they want to be, knowing them through that process. Keeping in touch with them afterward is fun, too, to see how it worked out – some of them flourish in ways they didn’t expect and others decide it wasn’t for them, and it’s usually the ones who worried that turn out better and those sure of themselves that end up questioning their path.

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On Campus Interviewing Tips from Those in the Know

By the RG Staff
(and some helpful 3Ls)

Going and getting a job is so out of style. Now, the jobs come and get you, right?

Not exactly.

On-campus interviewing is a great way to interview with multiple potential employers in the comfortable, familiar surroundings of Ann Arbor (or, at least, a hotel in Ann Arbor), but it can still be frightening.

Here are some tips from students who’ve been there and done that:

Don’t look at this as your one and only shot to get a job in the legal industry. It isn’t.

Do knock on the interview door promptly, or even one minute before, because the interviewer inside is counting on you as a timekeeper.

Don’t let the word “lifestyle” pass your lips.

Do get together with friends to rent a room at the hotel so you’ll have a better place to relax.

Do prioritize your callbacks so that once your top-choice firm makes an offer, you can cancel all the others. This eases your travel schedule and helps your classmates get waitlist slots.

Do decline callbacks. Unless you are looking in several cities, more than ten is ridiculous and inconsiderate of other students.

Don’t forget that the interviewers are just people who want to surround themselves with nice people they can get along with. Just relax and have fun. Your grades have already been decided.

Don’t take yourself too seriously.

Be yourself.

Remember that the clients of most of these firms are very large businesses. They want someone who their clients will feel comfortable with. Clients want an intelligent advisor, not an activist crusader. This doesn’t mean you give up your convictions, it just means that you have to get along with the large corporations that are often the target of activist opposition.
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To learn more about opportunities with Latham & Watkins, please join us for an informal reception on the back porch at Dominic's from 6-8pm on Wednesday, September 1 (feel free to bring your resumes and transcripts).

We look forward to seeing you for on-campus interviews on Thursday, September 2. Even if you’re not interviewing with us, be sure to stop by the reception or our Hospitality Suite to meet informally with Latham attorneys.
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Blue Football: Optimism With Cause

By Matt Nolan

For those of you who know me, you will not be surprised to hear me admit that I have been referred to as an unbridled optimist. I always look to the good side of things, always think the grade will be better rather than bad, always think the Cubs will win the World Series, always think the lectures will be less boring tomorrow - you get the point. With that disclaimer, if you really do have to believe me when I say this again this year though - because this time I really, really mean it - Michigan is going to win the Big Ten and play for the National Title.

Seriously, I'm not going out on that big of a limb here! Our schedule is easier than the last few years, the defense should be even better than last year (hard to believe but true), and the offense has a bunch of good things going on, too. If you don't believe me yet, here's how I see it:

Defense: With Ernest Shazor returning after a breakout year last year at safety and Marlin Jackson returning to his star cornerback position of two years ago (and returning for his senior year when he could have gone pro), the secondary will be even stronger than the unit that gave up only 9 passing TDs throughout 2003, 4 of which were to National Champion USC in the Rose Bowl. Almost all of the linebacker crew returns, and the defensive line will witness Gabe Watson and Pierre Woods coming into their own, among other improved strengths. Offensive touchdowns are going to be hard to come by against this team.

Offense: While senior stars John Navarre and Chris Perry departed for the NFL, the wide-receiving corps is universally considered the best in the country heading into the season, with Braylon Edwards, Jason Avant, and Steve Breaston leading the way. This unit is going to be scary-fast. With All-American David Baas leading the offensive line that should be better than last year, the only question marks are QB and RB. Matt Gutierrez steps into Navarre's shoes as a quicker, smarter (albeit younger) model and in his football career has never lost a game he's started. The backfield will be by committee, but the talent is there like always and should be fine with the holes the O-line will be making, especially with the field spread by those wide-outs. Despite losing some of our name players, Michigan is actually going to be putting MORE talent on the field this fall.

Schedule: Miami (OH) is our opener. They're a quality MAC team, but Michigan hasn't lost to anyone from that conference in decades. Traveling to Notre Dame during week two is a trouble spot, but after witnessing our 38 - 0 trouncing of the Irish last fall, I'm not worried. San Diego State rounds out the non-conference schedule (mark: 3-0), then it's into the real season: the Big Ten season.

While Iowa has beaten Michigan two years in a row, their talent level is down this year, and Michigan has not lost to the same team three years in a row since (are you ready for this?) the mid-1960s. The mid-1960s. You can bet Lloyd is going to have the squad ready for that one. The mid-60s is also the last time we lost a home Big Ten opener, coincidentally.

After Iowa we travel to Indiana (creampuff win) and back home for Minnesota, who can't win in the Big Ten outside of Minneapolis. At Illinois will be another creampuff victory (sorry Adrien!), and then at Purdue may be the biggest pre-OSU challenge of the season. Despite returning their starting QB Kyle Orton, however, Purdue is virtually re-inventing the defense, and let's not forget: the same Kyle Orton failed to lead his team to a single touchdown against a weaker Michigan "D" in 2003.

Michigan State never wins in the Big House. (9-0) Northwestern never wins in the Big House. (10-0)

The season, likely the Big Ten title, and a berth in the Orange Bowl National Championship game will (not likely, not probably, but WILL) hinge on the Michigan game at Ohio State on November 20th. While I could analyze all the ins and outs of why we'll win, I'll put it in simple terms instead. The Tressel/Carr score is 2-1 Tressel, and each of the four scenarios (home win, home loss, road win, road loss) has taken place for Michigan between the two so far except the road win. This series is so historic, so prominent, so emotional that I consider the little things like this to be the difference-makers. We'll want it more heading in, and we'll take it.

Whether our boys in Maize and Blue are good enough to beat whomever they play in Miami in January for the title is something I can't predict without knowing who we'd be playing, but I'm pretty excited about our chances with this year's team, and you should be, too.

Watching a football game with the largest crowd in America is only days away. Turning from Hoover street onto Greene and being swept away in a sea of maize and blue surging toward the Big House is only days away. $1 hot dogs are only days away. The first sight of the season from the inside of the stadium is only days away.

While I may still infuse a bit of my heart into my predictions, the initial impressions are still calculated with my head - and while I may be overly optimistic, this season, I really do believe that it's optimism with cause. GO BLUE! And welcome back to the greatest campus on earth.

Matt Nolan is the Executive Editor of the RG. E-mail him at mjnolan@umich.edu.
Save This Date

August 31

Baker & Hostetler LLP Interviews

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Ain't No Cure For the Summertime Blues When You're Crippled And Cite-Checking

By Mike Murphy

I started out the summer on the wrong foot, by breaking it while dancing in sandals to Michael Jackson. I won’t humor you with the details, but it was a life-changing event if there ever was one. Long story short, my inability to dance at a club in proper supportive footwear (as well as a clearly critical lack of coordination) resulted in a Jones fracture of my fifth metatarsal, which apparently (according to my doctors) is a bad and stupid thing to do.

I spent four weeks in a cast, and another four or so in physical therapy. So, I was bored. I sent out almost daily updates of my foot’s progress with the (clearly mistaken) impression that my friends gave more than a passing rat’s-ass-interest in the recovery process. I will say this, though. You learn to walk, you learn to live taking it easy. It’s easy to not sweat the small stuff when the big stuff is being able to take ten steps from the bathroom to the kitchen. Every day I could move better was a better day than the best day of the summer: my first day on my feet.

The rest of the summer was filled with long walks, lots of work and good times – especially if you consider “good times” to be convincing student health insurance to cover your physical therapy. I can see how this organization makes money as a health care “insurer” – by declining, at every opportunity and for every conceivable reason, to actually insure health care. I received over 20 explanation of benefits notices over the summer, for x-rays, check-ups and Physical Therapy. Not one procedure was immediately covered. Not one! I had to explain myself every time I asked for reimbursement. I felt like I was 16 and had to ask to borrow my parent’s SUV for the weekend over and over again. My insurance company made me write a letter “describing the nature of my accident,” and whether it was job-related or automobile-related. What the hell? The accident was “Smooth Criminal”-of-the-seminal-album-“Bad”-related.

To balance out the excitement of rehabilitation and dealing with health insurance, I spent a bit of the summer doing citation checking, which was almost as thrilling as watching a game of bingo on television. To be fair, I understand and appreciate the importance of proper citation checking. You can’t base decisions and laws upon faulty research and reasoning; (unless of course you’re deciding a presidential election or something). I realize that citation checking is an essential and noble activity; I just find it tragic and rather horrifying that anyone (you, for example, or more importantly, me) has to actually do it. It’s occurred to me that I may have spent more time this summer with the bluebook than with my own mother. The world is a sick place.

Further, one of the articles I had to check was clearly crafted by a complete raving lunatic - or a brilliant legal academic, and don’t tell me that the difference is anything but subtle. That was fine - I respect lunacy. But the footnotes, sweet wounded Jesus, the footnotes, apparently, were written by his research assistant, apparently a spastic rabid monkey with a penchant for bad grammar and absolutely no, no respect for proper bluebooking whatsoever. (I’m not kidding - the dedication was “With thanks to Chim-Chim, may you rest peacefully”).

Checking the citations in this article was like exploring the Winchester mansion, wasted, with Jessica Simpson as a tour guide - at one point the guy wrote “See note 33, supra” - and there wasn’t even a note 33 in the damn thing. I would have tossed down the article and stormed out of Sub-3 if I was physically able to stand up and storm out at the time. Instead I looked at my crutches and fumed.

Once I was able to storm out – and storm I did – something weird happened: everyone got the hell out of Ann Arbor. From Art Fair on to just now, the city’s been deserted. Ghost town. You can get a table at Red Hawk. You can get a seat at Mitch’s, no problem. You can turn left from Hill onto State without having to sit in the intersection like a complete jackass. It’s beautiful. It’s wonderful. By the time you’ve read this, it will be over.

And that’s how I came to actually resent the return of my good friends. Oh, they don’t tell you that in orientation. Sure, you make tons of buds for life time - but spend a month here with the town to yourself and you’ll flinch when you see an old sectionmate. Yeah, it’s great to hear about their summer in exotic locales like Cambodia, New York City and Toledo but you also see them as one more person in line in front of you at Meijer, one less parking spot on Monroe, or one more car waiting for half a freaking minute at the four-way-stop at Church and South U. With NO traffic whatsoever in ANY direction waiting for God to send down a signal telling them that it’s utterly, completely, Ralph-Nader-safe to actually enter the intersection, so that at no time their 1983 Toyota is exposed to the potential of a devastating five-mile-an-hour collision with a bicycle or an undergrad. Yes, IJKL, that is how I see you guys. Unless, of course, you guys take a four way stop the way you take pizza at a lunchtime talk – greedily and with no remorse.

That said, I suppose, grudgingly, it’s good to see you guys again. I’ll see you out there. And if any of you see me out there dancing in improper footwear - grab me and lay upon me a pride-shattering backhand slap. I’ll thank you later.

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The attorneys of McKenna Long & Aldridge invite all 2L's to interview with two Michigan alumni on Tuesday, August 31:

David Balser '87  
Jeremy Silverman '97

University of Michigan  
Law School Alumni in  
MLA's Atlanta Office:

Michael Rosenzweig -  
Professor of Law '79-'87  
David Balser '87  
Marc D'Amunzio '96  
Jeremy Silverman '97  
Christine Frey '98  
Sumner Chandler '01

University of Michigan  
Law School Alumni in  
MLA's Brussels Office:

Rich Willis '92

To Inquire, please contact:  
Jennifer Queen  
Director of Legal Recruitment & Professional Development  
404-927-4138  
jqqueen@mckennalong.com
It's going to be a long week of navy blue suits, polishing shoes and putting your best foot forward. By the end of it you'll be thinking "NALP, SCMALP" and be so tired of answering questions like "Why do you want to be a lawyer?" and "Tell me your best and worst attributes."

Worse yet, the law firms will all seem the same and you'll just be wishing for a place that has smart, interesting people, a diverse practice and free soda ("pop," if you are from Indiana).

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We are looking for folks who are interested in living the American dream: Working at a large (but not too large), sophisticated (but friendly) law firm with both Saks and open roads a few blocks away.

Interested? Then please sign up for interviews on Tuesday, August 31st.

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We will be conducting on-campus interviews Monday, August 30, 2004.
Finally, I ask that during your time here you reflect upon and prepare for your professional life ahead. I urge you to consider yourselves not just lawyers-in-training, but public citizens-in-training as well. By this I mean consider having some significant involvement in public service, in a manner that reflects the public character of this special institution. At a time in which, unfortunately, our funding from the State has declined to almost nothing (about 3% this year), it is all the more important that we connect to our storied public tradition and character by recognizing that law is a profession rather than a business, and as such, lawyers owe some obligation to work to the benefit of the society in which we are embedded as leaders.

So, welcome (back) to the Quad. Work hard, play hard, and have fun!

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SCHEDULES, from Page 2

Based on demand. The problem with building a course schedule is, of course, making everyone happy. And it’s an unsolvable problem. The administration has to balance the course taking interests of the students – who are paying an extraordinary amount of money to take these classes and sometimes get only one or two chances to take many popular upper-level classes – and the faculty, who have their own set of preferences and are around for longer than any individual student. Further, law students have a plethora of interests that make them a particularly difficult group to satisfy. Since the law school can only offer a finite amount of courses, more business law courses will doubtlessly infuriate students interested in public interest; more international law courses won’t sit well with students interested in tax law.

Admitting the difficulty of meeting those pressures, basing the upper-level course needs on past year’s demands may not be the most efficient way to build a schedule for a school that has, basically, a two-year upper-level program. Turnover and changes in interest among entering classes can create situations in which, at least initially, the course schedule seems quite student-unfriendly. Making changes after its initial creation to plug gaps brought about by student criticism shows a real dedication to pleasing the students. That’s admirable, but a better system would eliminate conflict and be ultimately more pleasing.

We at the RG would like to see the LSSS and administration sit down and discuss a process for student input - through representatives or a survey - into course offering structure as it’s built, from the initial faculty survey onward.

The students would see the classes they want off the bat, the administration would see less complaints. Increased communication between the students, administration and faculty throughout the course schedule building process would stifle future conflict and, ultimately, give students less to complain about.

RG

Could your future include Pillsbury Winthrop?

We think so.

Pillsbury Winthrop would like to invite all students on our interview schedules and waitlist to get to know a little bit more about us.

Please join us for a casual evening of pizza, drinks and conversation:
Sunday, August 29, 2004
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Pizza House
618 Church Street
Casual Attire

Pillsbury Winthrop
Teams that work.

Pizza, Beer

Interviews to be held Monday, August 30 at the Holiday Inn, North Campus
Please contact Christie Meyer with any questions.
christie.meyer@pillsburywinthrop.com

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PRECHT, from Page 3

personal moral conflicts he faced as a defense attorney.

The case advanced his passion for public service and helped him to recognize the true public duty attorneys owe to society. Precht describes, “A lawyer’s role is to ensure the fairness and decency of a trial. This is not a self-executing system. The legal system depends on the good faith attitudes of the lawyers involved, and their commitment to the system as a whole.”

He wanted to share his newfound knowledge and face a new personal challenge. He discovered his changing fate on a flyer on the wall at his cafeteria.

Creating a program - Channeling energy

In 1994, Dean Jeffrey Lehman hired Precht to come to University of Michigan as the law school’s first Dean of Public Service. While the school teemed with talent and interest in this area, students had little direction in which to channel this energy.

Throughout his time running this program, Precht worked hard to be visible both within the community and among the student body. He connected students with prestigious fellowships, counseled students on opportunities in public service and debt management, and worked with student groups such as PISCO, SNARL and Outlaws. He implemented a successful speaker series, assisted 15 Michigan graduates in receiving prestigious Skadden Fellowships for public interest lawyering, and helping to design and launch the Fiske Fellowship Program in Public Service.

Assistant Dean of Student Services David Baum had good things to say about Precht. “He has been a wonderful asset to the Law School. Through his energy and leadership, he played a major role in building a strong public service program here.”

Precht’s efforts along with others resulted in the Law School’s winning the 2001 ABA Law Student Division’s Judy M. Weightman Memorial Public Interest Law School of the Year Award. “As a result of these efforts,” says Dean Evan Caminker, “our School is now ‘on the map’ as one at which interested students are offered a developed path towards serving the public, broadly defined.”

Building on a good thing

Caminker recognizes the strength of our current public interest program, but is deeply committed to its growth. He notes the prestigious Fiske Fellowship program, and the significant debt management and loan forgiveness program, but states: “I strongly suspect there are more students interested in such positions than actually explore them or ultimately accept them,” says Caminker. “I will continue to search for ways to provide greater institutional support so as to make this career path an easier option.”

Students agree that these programs need to be more visible to the general student body. “I heard that the debt forgiveness program was cut!” says 3L Aaron Goodman.

“People need to know more about the opportunities available to them,” states Shari Katz, a 1L summer starter who spent the last two years in Washington D.C. working for a nonprofit organization called Partnership for Public Service. “Once they know what is available to them, they seem much more likely to pursue a career in public service.”

A search committee made up of Susan Guindi, Sara Zearfoss, Paul Reingold, Murray Taylor, and one student is working to quickly find a talented individual to take on the open Dean position. Precht is involved with the process, and believes that a good candidate would be extremely attentive to students’ broad range of need. He regrets that he could not touch all students, and hopes that the office may someday grow from being “a one person band.”
From The RG Archives:
The OCI Drinking game!

(this article originally appeared in the October 23, 1998 issue of Res Gestae)

We at the RG feel your pain. Your jerk roommate has 26 callbacks, including extended weekends in Vegas and Miami – and you are left with the hope that maybe the PD’s office in Alpena will give you a job if your Aunt Edna’s ex-lover hasn’t retired from the office yet. Well, we provide you with a little reward for being a loser… Gather around some friends, a six-pack (or two) of something civilized, and follow the rules.

To start, if you are a 3L who came back from the summer without a job, drink a bottle.
Take one drink for every interview.
Take one drink for every interview you were late for.
Take two drinks for every interview you were hungover for.
Take three drinks for every interview you missed.

Take four drinks for each call-back you had to skip class for.
Take five drinks if you just decided to skip class anyway.
Take two drinks for every limp-handed handshake interviewer.
Take one drink for every time an interviewer asked what your connection was to a specific city.
Take two drinks for every interviewer who laughed and/or rolled her eyes when you told her what your connection was.

Drink a bottle for every time you had to say, “I’m really excited about living in Cleveland.”
Take three drinks for every interviewer who asked for your grades.
Take three drinks for each time an interviewer asked a completely stupid question (e.g. “What does an admissions tour guide do?” or “UC Berkeley – is that in California?”)
Take six drinks if the interviewer doesn’t believe your undergrad school really exists.
Take three drinks every time you managed not to laugh when the interviewer said, “Our associates find that they can make 2300 billable hours and still have a high quality life.”
Drink an entire case of beer if you believed them.

Take one drink for each time you said, “I have absolutely no desire to do IP work.”
Take two additional for each interviewer retort of, “Why not? I’m an IP lawyer.”
Take one drink for each interviewer you thought was “hott” hot.
Take two more drinks for each time you hit on them.
Drink the bottle if you got his/her number.

Take four drinks for every ding letter.
Take an additional drink if the firm has hired people with less than a 2.5 GPA.
Take five drinks for every home-town ding letter.
Drink a bottle for each ding letter from Detroit.
Take two sips for every callback your roommates have.

Take an additional sip if the same firm dinged you.
Drink a bottle for every offer you have.

Finally… finish off your supply for surviving the process.