



# THE COMMENTATOR

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The Student Newspaper of the New York University School of Law

March 27, 2008

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SYMPOSIUM TO PROMOTE DECENTRALIZATION

By SUMIT SOM '08

Professors Katrina Wyman (NYU), Richard Stewart (NYU), and David Schoenbrod (New York Law School) have been working together to develop a new environmental paradigm. An overly centralized approach to regulation has led to inefficient and ineffective laws. The political process has become so polarized, however, that there has been a complete inability to replace past regulatory approaches. Tellingly, there have not been any major changes in federal environmental laws in the past 18 years.

Nonetheless, the American public has recently shown an increased environmental consciousness, as evidenced not only by polls but also by the growth in hybrid vehicle sales, the popularity of Al Gore's documentary about climate change *An Inconvenient Truth*, and other consumer choices supportive of the environment. Public backing—combined with a new, more environmentally friendly administration—could affect a remodeling of our nation's laws. Wyman hopes that "new federal legislation will create frameworks

See SYMPOSIUM page 2

## Newark ASB Trip Imparts Experience, Inspiration

By MOLLY TACK '09

Making your way into the World Trade Center Path station at 8:30 AM on Monday morning is like being a lone salmon swimming upstream to spawn. One escalator at the station descends to the trains headed to Jersey while seven ascend from the platforms, carrying Newark residents from the affordable living on the other side of the river to their jobs in Lower Manhattan. Even though Lower Manhattan is in many ways still reeling from the devastation of 9/11, the economic opportunities it offers to the people of Newark sparkle in comparison to the prospects available at home, a once-thriving center of industry where, today, the city government is Newark's largest employer.

Along with five other NYU Law students, I made this counterintuitive commute from Manhattan to Newark every day last week to spend my spring break with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ) as part of the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program of Law Students for Human Rights (LSHR)—a week of working, observing, and learning.

I set off Monday morning with a mix of feelings that I can only imagine would be just what a salmon would feel on its



Gregg Stankewicz

Law Students for Human Rights organized an Alternative Spring Break program with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice to offer six NYU Law students the chance to work on issues ranging from helping ex-offenders regain employment to New Jersey handgun regulation to juvenile waiver laws.

final expedition if it had a more complicated brain—apprehensive about all that could go wrong on the journey but determined to make it to my destination and excited about the adventure. I was somewhat unnerved by the number of people who had felt it appropriate to impress upon me, in the days leading up to spring break,

Newark's crime statistics for the decades following the race riots of 1967. But mostly, on Monday, I was excited about that morning's meeting with Newark Mayor Cory Booker, arranged by our contact at NJISJ, Laurel Dumont, a young attorney who worked on Booker's campaign before joining the staff of the Institute.

Last spring, when the Public Interest Law Center (PILC) first urged LSHR to consider Newark for an ASB trip, I thought we might have trouble selling Newark as an appealing spring break destination, even to the most public interest-minded law students—and then, in May, I saw Cory Booker speak at the law school's commencement.

As Mayor Booker related to the Class of 2007 the story of how, as a young Yale Law graduate living in a violence-plagued Newark housing project, he learned from his neighbors to see beneath the troubled surface of the world around him the daily triumphs of ordinary people and vast potential for change, tears streamed down my face. He impressed upon me the impact my classmates and I

could make, not by virtue of our first-class legal training, but just by the way in which we live our lives. "Stand tall," he said. I stood, applauded, bawled some more, and knew I would be spending my next spring break in Newark. Less than a year later, I was staring into the massive skeleton of Brick Towers, the housing project where Booker had lived, which finally closed forever in December.

The mayor was every bit as inspiring in the intimate, low-key meeting as he had been on the stage of Madison Square Garden. He asked each of us students in turn about our backgrounds, interests, and ambitions, engaging us on topics ranging from high school nicknames to same-sex marriage. He claimed to be rejuvenated by our enthusiasm, and his aides maintain that this is not mere lip service. But whatever spurt of energy we might have given him can't possibly compare with the mayor's palpable influence, felt in nearly everything we worked on during the week.

See NEWARK page 3

## Embassy Suites to Host Fall '08 EIW



Early Interview Week 2008, featuring an expected 350 employers and more than 450 students, will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Battery Park this August. The move follows last year's inquiry into students' feelings about the use of D'Agostino Residence Hall in past years. The all-suite hotel was chosen to provide a more professional interview venue for students and employers. Whether this is just another way to compete with our "neighbor to the north" (and whether Dean & DeLuca will remain the primary caterer) remain to be seen.

Infra

- Why do NYU Law students run to report every innane incident to Above the Law and other blogs? Whatever the reason, quit it. page 2
- Fox's newest legal drama can't hold a candle to Fox's old medical drama. page 5
- Looking for a new way to see who is better than you? Try the journal mastheads. page 6
- New journal editors-in-chief explain why they're better than you. page 8

## Gillers's Expertise on Legal Ethics More Likely to Entice than Repulse Admitted Students

TO THE EDITOR:

Although one nameless student ("Admitted Students Deserve to See Worthwhile Classes," *The Commentator*, March 13, 2008) thinks that prospective students would prefer to be shot in the eye rather than sit in on a class with Professor Gillers, and that it would turn away students from attending NYU Law, I think that as an expert on legal ethics, Professor Stephen Gillers would draw admitted students to attend NYU.

BARBARA BOVA, PH.D.

## SYMPOSIUM: "Breaking the Logjam" Brings Flood of Ideas

*Continued from page 1*

that encourage industry to develop more environmentally friendly products and processes and allow individuals to make more pro-environmental choices."

In order to prepare the groundwork for a new set of environmental laws, this past fall there was a seminar at NYU on environmental governance. Several speakers came to the class to discuss their proposals and refine their ideas for how the law can be changed. These ideas will come to fruition on Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29 when NYU will host a two-day symposium entitled "Breaking the Logjam." The symposium will involve over 40 experts who will present papers on a wide range of topics, including

climate change and water pollution. These papers and ideas will then be published in the NYU Environmental Law Journal, summarized in a book meant to be accessible to the general public, and delivered in a report to Congress and the next administration to inform them about how environmental laws can be reformed.

Asked about the symposium's potential to affect change, Schoenbrod said, "This symposium and the ideas coming out of it can spur a new approach to environmental laws that frees people to make the decisions that will keep our planet healthy." The symposium's organizers hope that it will be a major step in catalyzing change and a great opportunity to see the genesis of a whole new set of environmental regulations.

## NYU Students Need to Grow Up and Stop Lusting After Anonymous ATL Fame

BY ANDREW GEHRING '09

I've never been a big fan of the blogosphere. When blogs first appeared on the national radar, a number of my friends jumped on the bandwagon and started posting their inconsequential and otherwise-unpublishable thoughts online. Needless to say, I neither began my own blog nor frequented by friends' blogs.

Those days have passed, and I've since broadened my horizons a bit and now peruse the occasional blog, but only professional ones, still avoiding personal blogs. Like many of my fellow law students at NYU, my legal blog of choice is Above the Law (ATL; [abovethelaw.com](http://abovethelaw.com)), a blog dedicated predominantly to discussions of pay raises and bonuses, but that is willing to touch on any topic with a legal grounding. Recently, though, it struck me that many of the postings on ATL share characteristics with the personal blogs that I still eschew: the stories are often inconsequential and just not worth publishing.

I suppose that's to be expected from any business that's driven by the quantity of the product it produces rather than the quality. But I noticed something else with regard to the stories I find objectionable on ATL: while many find their basis in goings-on in the world at large, some are specifically about NYU. I refer to stories like "Beware of Law School Listservs" (March 3, 2008), "Because Listserv Clusterf\*\*ks Happen at Top 5 Schools, Too" (December 15, 2007), and "Some Gloating Material for Columbia Law Folks" (November 8, 2007). These postings, in

addition to being about matters that are unimportant to the legal community as a whole (an NYU student's accidentally sending a grade-grubbing email to his entire class rather than just his professor, a Coase's List discussion-turned-flame-war about whether it's worthwhile to seek out easy classes, and the presence of a naked man in the law library, respectively), share two other characteristics that I wish to focus on: (1) they portray NYU in a negative light, and (2) they were brought to the attention of the blogosphere, not through public channels, but rather by the efforts of some NYU student(s).

Initially, I have a number of problems with this state of affairs. Primarily, I'm not sure what sort of histrionic malcontent feels the need to garner attention for him- or herself by exposing NYU's blemished underbelly (to use a metaphor) to the blogosphere. These items are of no consequence to the greater legal community, and publishing them serves only to diminish the school's reputation, even if only minimally. And certainly if the aim of submitting them to ATL is to be a force for change, there are far more effective means of doing so (by, say, sending an email to the relevant parties, as would have been an appropriate response to the reply-all misfire or the Coase's List exchange, or—blatant plug!—writing a letter to *The Commentator*) or are problems that are already known to exist to those who can fix them (as with the unclothed library visitor or the power outage that was the subject of the story entitled "NYU Law School: Left in the Dark" (November 30, 2007)).

But even more distressing to me, rather than the simple fact of these stories' existence, is that our peer schools do not engage in the same behavior. And by

that I don't mean that students at Harvard don't sometimes accidentally hit "Reply All" when they mean to simply hit "Reply." I mean that when such mishaps occur, the legal blogs aren't notified. Over the past academic year, four stories (by my count; there could be more that I missed) have appeared on ATL about NYU that fit the above criteria (having no actual intellectual value, portraying NYU negatively, and being reported by a student). In the same time period, no such stories have appeared about Columbia, and only one has appeared about Harvard (and that story was that Silda Spitzer was scheduled to deliver a talk there, shortly after Eliot Spitzer's Client 9 debacle, so I'm not even sure it should really count, since it doesn't seem especially negative). I got too depressed at this point to continue looking through ATL's archives for stories about Yale and Stanford, but I think it's a safe bet to assume they've had far fewer postings of the type under discussion than we do.

In short, I'm ashamed of NYU. Not because we foul up and have a brownout here and there, and not because we use our listservs to have discussions that occasionally degenerate into puerile name-calling, but rather because we feel the need to air these minor events in the most public way feasible. I'm honestly not sure what the motivation is—tipsters don't even get to see their names on ATL, instead being appropriately referred to as "tipsters"—and I don't really care. If this ignominious behavior continues, I feel our peer schools *will* have reason to look down on us, but not because of the content of the stories.

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## NEWARK: ASB Students Put Their Skills to Use

*Continued from page 1*

though Newark is the largest city in New Jersey, Newark's public interest lawyers and community organizers emphasize how small and close-knit the community of people working tirelessly to improve the city's quality of life feels to them.

In 2002, Booker was a Newark city councilman, staging a daring run for mayor against incumbent Sharpe James who had run the city since 1986. As we drove past a vast expanse of abandoned, crumbling factories, one sixteen-year-old Newarker told us that when Booker finally replaced James in 2006, many Newark residents "thought the world was going to end" with the long-time city boss no longer at the helm.

Since his initial electoral victory, things have not been easy for Booker. Upon taking office, Booker made public safety his top priority. The 38-year-old stays out late on weekends, cruising the city's hot spots as he rides along with Newark's cops on the beat. Despite a humbling track record of casting his lot with the city's most vulnerable residents, last summer, after a tragic gang shooting of four college students, Booker reportedly was told by an aggrieved resident and former associate that the victims' blood was on his hands.

The resilience that Booker exhibits in the face of staggering setbacks like the gang shooting is mirrored by those around him. Matt Klapper, a 25-year-old aide to Mayor Booker who has known him

since Klapper was a 17-year-old aspiring film major documenting Booker's first campaign, reflects Booker's influence in his choice to reside in one of Newark's most struggling neighborhoods, where Klapper is the only white resident for blocks. The drug dealers on Klapper's corner think he's DEA, and the kids in the daycare downstairs, where he stops in every morning to say hello on his way to work, think he's Mr. Rogers.

From his fight to help his neighbors procure legitimate employment, Klapper knows firsthand the high barriers that face ex-offenders when they reenter society. During the week, the six ASB interns took turns addressing these problems with Reentry Legal Services (ReLeSe), one of NJISJ's partners, calling ex-offenders to offer the program's services. I spent hours on the phone on behalf of one man, recently released from prison, who suffered from short-term memory loss and cognition difficulties, helping him to navigate an expansive system of entities comprising the Motor Vehicles Commission and several municipal courts whose approval he needed to get his driver's license restored, which was necessary for him to be eligible for most of the employment that is available to ex-offenders. Other students drafted petitions to expunge stale criminal records, including a petition on behalf of a 40-year-old client who had just been denied a job promotion because of a conviction for shoplifting when she was 17.

Our work with NJISJ also



*Matt Klapper (right) aide to Newark Mayor Booker, explains the high barriers ex-offenders face when reentering society.*

touched on New Jersey handgun regulations, an integral part of Mayor Booker's public safety platform, as well as collateral damage from aggressive law enforcement policies, such as a "juvenile waiver" rule that meant that young defendants accused of certain crimes were automatically tried as adults. Our accomplishments were modest, but affecting nonetheless. For several of the 11s, it was their first opportunity to put fledgling legal skills to work, positively impacting the Newark community and many of its most

underserved residents through direct services and legal and social science research in support of NJISJ's litigation and legislative reform efforts.

For me, the week was an opportunity to take a step back from school and draw encouragement from the inspiring people around me—from the Newarkers overcoming major obstacles every day just to survive, to the attorneys advocating for the city and still making time to embrace us visitors with open arms; to my fellow students, forgoing a chance to catch

up on sleep and work to serve a city to which they had no ties; to our site leader Dan Meyler '09, who spent months learning about Newark, attending conferences, and making connections in order to present us with the dream-like array of hands-on opportunities that we enjoyed during the week. For a week, I got to remove my law school blinders and see a troubled New Jersey city as something else—a testament to America's urban plight but also to its enduring spirit of revitalization, just five miles from Manhattan.

## Breaking the Logjam: An Environmental Law for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



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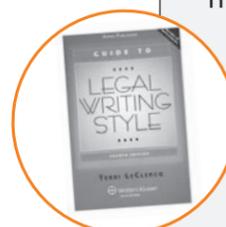
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## Canterbury's Law Is No Physician's Tale

By DEREK TOKAZ '08

Fox's new legal drama *Canterbury's Law* (produced by Sony and Apostle) follows the life and career of Elizabeth Canterbury (Julianna Margulies, best known from her stint on the hit show *ER*), a top-notch but self-destructive defense attorney who handles seemingly un-winnable cases while struggling to keep her personal and professional life from spiraling out of control. In order to win cases and save the lives her clients, Canterbury has to engage in rather unscrupulous behavior, not just violating ethical canons, but also at times outright breaking the law.

*Canterbury's Law* makes me wonder how much of executive producer Dennis Leary's day is spent watching *House M.D.*, another Fox drama. The similarities are a little too obvious to ignore, right down to the substance abuse (Canterbury has a rather liberal relationship with vodka), and the trusty but not entirely loyal legal team, composed of what else but a white guy (Ben Shenkman), a black guy (Keith Robinson), and a hot white girl (Trieste Dunn). Unfortunately, *Canterbury's Law* lacks the wit and personalities that have made *House* such a success.

Don't get me wrong, though: if you're a fan of the legal drama genre, there's a good chance you'll like this show. It's intelligent, well acted, and tries

to avoid the formulas we're familiar with from *Perry Mason* and *Matlock* and their derivatives. While it still sticks to the one-case-per-episode model, the show does manage to keep an overarching plot. From one



Julianna Margulies, above center, plays the focal character in Fox's new legal drama *Canterbury's Law*. The show can currently be seen Friday nights at 9 PM.

episode to the next, we watch Canterbury deal with the abduction of her child, her infidelity and failing relationship with her law professor husband, and the fallout from her unprofessional behavior. (And in the episode airing on April 4, in which two

annoying, giggling sixteen-year-old girls are on trial for soliciting murder, you'll also get to see just how ugly Canterbury's shirt's collar can get. At times it looks as though she's wearing the losers from *Project Runway's* menswear challenges. I know that's unrelated, but it still seemed worth mentioning.)

In casting a female lead, the producers intentionally wanted to bring gender to the forefront of the show, highlighting the fact that the other legal dramas on TV all have a male point of view. *Canterbury's Law* focuses less on procedure and trials, and more on the personal, social, and emotional aspects of the

practice. It also focuses on the more feminine side of the law by reminding viewers that, even in a forum where men are expected to wear a tie and show no skin below their Adam's apple, it's still acceptable for a woman to argue a murder case with her



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shirt half unbuttoned. But to be fair, Margulies (who is not just the star, but also a producer) is probably just trying to honor the memory of her grandmother, a legal pioneer and a 1924 graduate of NYU School of Law.

*Canterbury's Law* aired its first episode on Monday, March 10 at 9 PM, winning the #3 rank

for shows in that slot and #8 for the night. It has since moved to Friday nights at the same time. So what has Fox decided will help fill the void on Monday nights? Reruns of *House*. Perhaps the execs at Fox have realized that the only way to duplicate the genius of *House* is with more *House*.

NYU IPELS presents

## Symposium on Digital Convergence and Copyright

April 7, 2008

The Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Society of NYU School of Law will host a symposium on digital convergence and copyright. The Symposium will be held on Monday, 7th April 2008 between 4 and 7 pm, followed by a cocktail reception.

The Symposium will address copyright issues associated with emerging media services, from both a business as well as legal perspective, discussing digital distribution of entertainment and the phenomenon that blurs the boundaries between different media and copyrightable subject matters. Panelists will discuss and debate:

- Emerging business models and Digital Convergence
- The liability of service providers
- Fair use and new technology
- Digital Rights Management and the DMCA
- Enforcement of copyright and privacy issues.

The symposium will be held at Furman Hall at the NYU School of Law.

### Speakers

**Prof. William Greene**  
NYU Stern School of Business

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Co-Founder, Berkman Center for Internet & Society,  
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Fordham University School of Law

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## Getting to Know Next Year's Journal Editors: A Commentator Q&A

**David Lawrence, Annual Survey**  
**Why did you agree to be editor-in-chief?**



I was looking for a defining law school experience—something that I will remember first and foremost when I look back on these years. Journal board members get that, I think.

**What was your pre-law school background like?**

I had absolutely no work experience, and I majored in Physics. Aside from writing a column in my school paper, I had no experience with the work we do on *Annual Survey*.

**What will you do to ensure high morale among next year's 2Ls?**

We need to keep the office a relaxed, fun place—there is no reason journal work can't be a lot of fun for everyone on the journal. I also think keeping 2Ls up on how the line-by-line work they are doing fits into the overall production process can help morale: I'd like to make sure everyone knows how they are contributing to the finished product.

**What has been your favorite law school class and why?**

Labor Law. The field itself is really fascinating because it deals with really poignant issues about class and society. However, I found the class most interesting as a case study on the life cycle of a giant statutory scheme concocted to answer a major issue of the day (with an eye towards pending healthcare reform...).

**Do you have any advice for 1Ls regarding the journal-applying and -choosing process?**

Focus on your grades for now, and in the application spend a lot of time on the Bluebooking. I think a lot of 1Ls don't realize how important the Bluebooking is to many journals. As far as choosing, I'd say talk to a lot of people, read everything you can, then choose *Annual Survey*.

**Lars Johnson, Environmental Law Journal**  
**Why did you agree to be editor-in-chief?**



I ran for editor-in-chief because I have really enjoyed being part of my journal and I wanted a bigger role in it next year. I really enjoyed working with the 2Ls and 3Ls this year, and I am really glad I'll have the opportunity to work with next year's 3Ls and a whole new batch of 2Ls next year. And as far as the workload goes, perhaps I am a bit of a masochist, but I think I can handle it.

**Plans and goals for next year?**

Our first goal is to publish all of our editions next year, which should be the easy part. Our next goal is to simplify the C&S process for our 2Ls. We want to eliminate as much of our paper use as possible next year and hopefully keep 2Ls from having to spend too much time standing awkwardly by the library copier, photocopying sources. We also want to improve our developments process to improve the quality of our initial submissions. And of course, we want to party like it's 1999.

**Why apply to your journal?**

I liked our journal because it is small, so I've really been able to get to know people on it. I really liked the flexible office hours policy (two hours a week whenever we wanted to do them), and the workload was not too bad. 1Ls should not think that they have to be interested in environmental law to be on our journal. Most of our board members are going into a wide array of fields, and some of us don't even like the environment.

**Did you know The Commentator existed before this interview?**

Oh, I knew. I knew all too well.

**Advice for 1Ls?**

Don't think that you have to apply to journals just because it's something people do. I enjoyed being on my journal, but I know students who did not do a journal and are doing just fine in terms of jobs. If you do apply, only apply to journals that you want. Be honest in the rankings and do not try to game the system. If there are only three journals that you are interested in, then only rank those three journals.

Being on a journal is a great way to see how the production process works and give yourself a chance to publish something before you finish law school. I also think it's a great way to find another community within law school and get to know some cool 3Ls as a 2L. I mean, we're all pretty cool.

**Clay Kaminski, International Law**  
**Why did you agree to be editor-in-chief?**



I enjoyed working for *JILP* as a staff editor both because of the content and especially because of the people. I am excited to be editor-in-chief in order to get to know everyone on the journal and to continue *JILP*'s strong tradition as a journal and a community.

**Pre-law school background?**

My undergraduate degree was in linguistics. I wrote my thesis on the syntax of question formation, using an Austrian dialect of Romani as a case study.

**Plans and goals for next year?**

Every year *JILP* strives to publish the most interesting articles on international and comparative law, including as much student work as possible, while cultivating an atmosphere of camaraderie on the journal. Next year we look forward to a symposium on the judges who make up international tribunals and to the release of the second edition of our guide to international citation, the *GFILC* [*Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citation*].

**Why apply to your journal?**

*JILP* is a leading journal of international and comparative law. We have a commitment to publishing student work and a Notes Program for peer editing and collaboration to achieve this end. We also have a dart board.

**Favorite law school class?**

Conflict of Laws with Professor Silberman. Every day I left class simultaneously perplexed and satisfied. The approach to practical problems we used in Conflicts has altered the way I think about my other courses.

**Advice for 1Ls?**

Apply to *JILP*!

**Daniel Meyler, Law & Liberty**  
**Why did you agree to be editor-in-chief?**



*Law and Liberty* is the most unique journal at NYU and I can't wait to help run and promote it.

**Pre-law school background?**

I was the bassist in a New Jersey new wave band called "The Accidents." We scored several local hits including "You Make Me Tense" and "(Get Off Your) High Horse."

**Ensure high morale among 2Ls?**

We intend to involve 2Ls in more than just checking footnotes! 2Ls will immediately begin to work with 3L editors to learn the process of journal publication and to make important editorial decisions.

**Why apply to your journal?**

Join *Law and Liberty* if: you want to dive right into substantive journal work; you want to be a part of a small, collegial group who are not afraid to disagree with one another; you have ever liked philosophy; you have ever thought about the role of the state in the life of the citizenry; you agree with the tenets of classical liberalism; or you disagree with the tenets of classical liberalism and want to critique it.

**Know The Commentator existed?**

Yes! I have enjoyed the wit of *The Commentator* and have even had issues posted on my refrigerator.

**Advice for 1Ls?**

Bluebook well. Really tell us something in your personal statement. Take a chance.

**Craig Davis, Legislation**  
**Why did you agree to be editor-in-chief?**



I was drawn to law school because of my interest in public policy. Being an editor on *Legislation* allows me the opportunity to be involved in the discussion and development of cutting-edge policy issues. Also, the people on the journal are a great group.

**Pre-law school background?**

I spent three years on Senator Sarbanes's Banking Committee staff, worked for a presidential campaign in Iowa, and traveled through South America.

**Plans and goals for next year?**

We want to involve 2L Staff Editors in more substantive journal work. Having a sense of ownership of the journal will help everyone learn more and be more efficient. We have also added a new position, Senior Notes Editor—Development, to help 2Ls choose topics earlier in their law school careers and to provide support as they develop their notes.

**Ensure high morale among 2Ls?**

Morale doesn't seem to be an issue. We have a lot of social events. We work well together. We even made a Peeps diorama for the *Washington Post* contest. (You can check it out in the basement of D'Ag.) And we have a (self-appointed) Chancellor of Fun.

**Advice for 1Ls?**

Start early and don't stress too much. Also, get to know *The Bluebook*—investing time learning it now will pay dividends in the writing competition and beyond. If you want more advice, Chapter IX of *Academic Legal Writing* by Eugene Volokh is the best I have seen. It's short and very insightful.

**Francesca Mead, Law & Business**  
**Why did you agree to be editor-in-chief?**



The position is an opportunity to continue a family legacy: my great-grandfather, an Irish immigrant, started a small newspaper in Erie, Pennsylvania with his wife's savings from her teaching job; that was 1888, and the newspaper remains our family business to this day. So, while I'm not going to work for the family business, at least I'm going to get some idea of what it's like to run a publication.

**Ensure high morale among 2Ls?**

We plan to continue the *JLB* tradition of no office hours required. The journal is run very efficiently, so while there is work to be done, there is no expectation of face time. Since this means little occasion for in-person meetings, we hope to hold a number of informal social events to get to know one another, as well as *JLB* alumni. Moreover, the *JLB* foosball table is back in operation for the enjoyment of staff members.

**Favorite law school class?**

I appreciated the practical skills that Laywering provided once I began my summer job. As for doctrinal courses, the professor makes all the difference, meaning that I enjoy classes much more when the professor is captivating and possesses a great sense of humor (e.g., Corporations with Geoffrey Miller and Con Law with Kenji Yoshino). So far, my favorite course has been Frank Upham's Property Rights in Changing Societies; for me, the class was a return to all that's great about graduate school seminars.

**Advice for 1Ls?**

Do not hesitate to ask 2Ls and 3Ls about their experiences selecting and participating on a journal; think of journal work as a great opportunity to hone professional skills such as collaboration and attention to detail.

**Sam Nitze, Law Review**

**Why did you agree to be editor-in-chief?**



It seemed an extraordinary opportunity to work closely with a talented group of students, to deepen my connection to the journal and to the broader law school community, and to help shape and guide an important institution with a tradition of publishing path-breaking legal scholarship.

**Pre-law school background?**

After graduating from college in 1995, I spent one year teaching English in Italy and two years trying to become a rock star before embarking on what I fully expected would be a lifelong career as a newspaper reporter. I worked at a series of papers, ending with the *Miami Herald*, where I covered city government

and worked on investigative projects. Along the way I got married and started a family—we have a two-year-old son and are expecting our second child in September (yikes).

**Favorite law school class?**

Civil Procedure. The class, taught by a master, introduced me to the law and to a new way of thinking. The professor taught us to remember that the appellate court cases we read started with real human beings and to consider how and why the cases wound up in court and, eventually, in our casebooks. He taught us to skip the jargon and express ourselves in plain English. And he taught us to see the strengths and imperfections of our system of civil procedure and to understand why both matter. In the wrong hands, the Socratic method is a gimmick; in the right hands, it electrifies the classroom.

**Advice for 1Ls?**

First, definitely apply! Contrary to some of the myths one hears, journal work is immensely rewarding, both intellectually and socially. We contend with lots of footnotes, it's true, but there is so much more to the work we do. As for choosing, the most important thing is to rank your preferences as they really are. You have a real shot at any journal that interests you and should give yourself a chance.

**Liz Kukura and Katy Mastman, Social Change**  
**Why did you agree to be editor-in-chief?**

Katy: Social Changers are a dynamic, progressive, committed group of students that impress and inspire me. I'm excited to spend another year in the community.

Liz: Before law school I worked at a think tank where one of the goals was to promote critical scholarship on sexual orientation legal issues. I saw how instrumental this kind of institutional support was to fostering a body of scholarship in this area of the law and came to appreciate the ways in which such scholarship influences advocacy efforts and activism.

**Plans and goals for next year?**

We want to ensure that *Social Change* continues to provide a strong base for building the progressive community at NYU. We are excited to make that happen by building stronger relationships with the administration, student groups, and other journals.

**Why apply to your journal?**

*Social Change* draws a lot of public interest students together to create a dynamic, progressive student community. Because we publish scholarship that is of interest not just to academics but also to advocates, focusing on practical legal reform, we hope the journal has an "advocate's perspective" that will help create some of the change that shapes the journal's mission.

**Advice for 1Ls?**

First and foremost, talk to current members of the journals you're interested in to get a sense of what their experiences were like. Second, as you complete the writing competition, be honest about why you're interested in the journal. Don't be afraid to let us know why you are ranking journals the way you are.