SBA Scrambles to Fund Student Groups After Treasurer Resigns
On Eve of Semester; Constitutional Changes to Be Considered

By Matthew Kelly '13
Managing Editor

In a surprising development, the elected Student Bar Association Treasurer resigned on August 29, the day before classes started this semester, amid concerns that delays in budget submissions and accounting would delay funding for the 65 student groups funded through SBA.

SBA President Scott Goins '12 announced the resignation via an email to all 2Ls and 3Ls on August 31. The former Treasurer, Katrina Henderson, '13, has been replaced on an interim basis by Brandon Jang '12 and Evan Goodman '12; the position will be permanently filled through elections later this fall, which is also expected to include a package of constitutional changes intended to provide contingencies in the event of vacancies or sudden resignations.

Goins's email described a flurry of activity shortly before the start of school. On August 29, Goins said he and Vice-President Sam Jackson '12 learned — following intermittent complaints from student groups over the summer — that student group budget reports from the previous academic year had not been submitted to the school, and budget proposals for the upcoming year had not been forwarded to the SBA Finance Committee for review. Without an accounting of the previous year's budgets, called reconciliations, NYU Law Director of Financial Management Thomas Clark suggested to Goins that the school was reluctant to issue the first portion of this year's $185,000 SBA budget.

After the discovery of the breakdown in the funding process and Henderson's resignation, efforts were launched to approve group budgets for the coming year, which was completed on September 10. Complicating matters, Henderson was the only authorized signatory for the SBA's scores of bank accounts. The interim treasurers and

FIC Commissioner Discusses Internet Privacy, Consumer Protection

By Amelia Frinskel '14
Contributing Writer

Federal Trade Commission Commissioner Julie Brill on Tuesday delivered the 15th annual Attorney General Robert Abrams Public Service Lecture. A 1985 graduate of the NYU School of Law and a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar, Brill has dedicated her life to public service. In her remarks, she traced her path from the courtroom to the Federal Trade Commission — a path that has included stops in the Vermont and North Carolina Attorney General's offices.

At the Federal Trade Commission, Brill works on cutting-edge privacy and data security issues.

“We shop for groceries online, share photo albums online, pay traffic tickets online, even date online,” said Brill. “But all this cyber-wonder does not come for free. Just as technology is extending our reach to the limits of our imagination, many of those providing us with all these advances are reaching back — harvesting and trading in information about us. The amount of tracking online ... is unprecedented. It is also largely undetected by the consumer, raising serious privacy concerns.”

In an effort to address those concerns, Brill said the Federal Trade Commission has brought a number of law enforcement cases against companies that have failed to protect consumers’ data as well as against companies that have disclosed personal data that consumers expected to remain private. Additionally, she said the Federal Trade Commission is calling on companies to build privacy and security protections into new products and to be clearer about how they collect, use, and retain consumer information.

Reaching back into her history, Brill also discussed some of the other ways that she has taken steps to protect consumers during her career. Highlighting one important assignment in the Vermont Attorney General's office, Brill said, “We discovered that the credit reporting agencies had mistreated town records: the agencies had listed everyone who received a property tax bill as failing to pay. Entry towns were listed as deadbeats.” Brill helped correct the error, making it possible for families across Vermont to once again obtain mortgages and refinancing their homes.

Brill concluded her address by offering advice to law students still trying to settle on the direction of their own career paths. She said, “Find your own small world in which to practice law; where — if you look hard enough — you will discover issues that have great significance for us all.”
Finding Your Niche: The Commentator’s Guide to The Village

By LEIGHTON DELLINGER ’12

Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to NYU Law! Part of getting settled into school means discovering your new favorite Commentator Editor-in-Chief, Leighton Dellinger ’12. Here are a few of my favorites — try ‘em out! Think I forgot something? Write about it for The Commentator! (But, seriously, do.)

Coffee

I love coffee. Like, love coffee. But I have all kinds of different qualifications for a good cup: proximity, deliciousness, atmosphere, vibe, my mood, etc. Here are a few of my favorites:

JB Coffee

The best cheap coffee-to-go is at JB. I definitely wouldn’t recommend dropping in and studying here — it’s roughly the size of a D’Ag dorm room. It’s light on its feet by eight operation: cash only, no online posted hours — but the guys who run the place are great and after a few visits they’ll remember your order (large coffee, steamed skim, sugar). The prices can be beat: $1 for small, $1.50 for medium and $1.75 for large. And steamed is free!

123 W 3rd Street (between 6th Ave. and MacDougal)

Half-Pint

It’s not to study yet. Not even close. Leave the library. Attention all Law Students: LEAVE THE LIBRARY NOW! Eventually, that time will roll around, sometime around Thanksgiving, and you’ll realize two things: first, that you don’t want to see any of your friends from your section and you are still very, very ill from over-doing the (crappy) free coffee and donuts at the law school and second, that you really should be studying but … ohmygod, Facebook! You Tube! If you’re anything like me, you’ll feel compelled to sit in front of your computer with an outline open while you read the entire Internet. These things are better done places besides the Vandy library:

The Tea Spot

The Tea Spot is the best place to spend an afternoon studying. The Internet is reliable, the chairs are comfy, the music is usually quiet (and when it’s not it’s 90s rock) and the hot chocolate and Gyre Enthusiasts: beware! they don’t fancy coffee. They don’t even do drip coffee. If you want your coffee hot water and a tea infuser filled with coffee. It’s not bad, but it’s not awesome either.

127 MacDougal (between Washington Square South and Washington Square)

Lunch

You will eventually wind up eating lunch near school. The dosa on Waverly is definitely worth it, but not it’s 90s rock) and the hot chocolate and Gyre. The dosa is delicious — tons of different combos and everything is made with fresh, organic ingredients. And their milkshakes … well, their milkshakes are the sole subsistence of my co-editor-in-chief, Terra Judge ’12, who absolutely loves them. My suggestion: the lamb burger. It comes with an awesome cucumber mint yogurt. Our new favorite discovery: the student special. For $9 you get a burger, fries and a soda!

537 LaGuardia (between Bleeker and 3rd St.)

BareBurger

You know how sometimes you just can’t get going on a rainy day? You don’t really want that nasty after-Five Guys sauce? And you could totally go for a milkshake? BareBurger is the place. The burgers are delicious — tons of different combos and everything is made with fresh, organic ingredients. And their milkshakes … well, their milkshakes are the sole subsistence of my co-editor-in-chief, Terra Judge ’12, who absolutely loves them. My suggestion: the lamb burger. It comes with an awesome cucumber mint yogurt. Our new favorite discovery: the student special. For $9 you get a burger, fries and a soda!

537 LaGuardia (between Bleeker and 3rd St.)

Half-Pint

Half-Pint is a bar. There’s no way around that. But the menu goes way beyond bar food — all the way to an extensive lunchtime fare that includes a make-your-own sandwich menu with the likes of roasted potatoes as an option. I only know one person who gets the roasted potatoes, but he loves them. To each his own. If you want a warm sandwich, head to Half-Pint. But if you want a good cold salad, a burger, or a turkey wrap, this is also the place for you. Bonus: they have great outdoor seating!

76 W 2nd Street (between Thompson and LaGuardia)

Amity Hall

Stuffed burger aren’t always my favorite thing, but Amity Hall does them really well. The real treat is the fries — they’re made in olive oil and sprinkled with asiago cheese. The last time I went I declared I was fully halfway through my fries and then ate all of the fries anyway. They’re my favorite fries in the Village, maybe the best in NYC. A trip to Amity Hall is worth it for them alone. Bonus Thursday: beer night — free draft beer with any burger and they have a great craft list too.

80 W 3rd St. (between Thompson and Sullivan)

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The Commentator serves as a forum for news, opinions and ideas of members of the Law School community. The Editorial Board consists of the Editor-in-Chief and the Managing Editor. Only editors and policies developed by the Editorial Board reflect the opinions of the Editorial Board. All other opinions expressed are the personal opinions of the contributors.

The Commentator is issued on alternate Wednesdays during the academic year except during vacations and examination periods. Advertising rates are available on request. Subscriptions are also available at a rate of $15 per year.

Letters to the Editor should be sent to the following address, either on paper or via e-mail. All submissions become property of The Commentator.

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Everything You Wanted to Know About 1L Sex 101: Answered

Oh, hey, everyone. Your friend Truth here. We all know it, we all mildly despise it: The School Newspaper Sex Column. Where cheesy innuendos, empty musings, and thinly veiled anonymity abound. Much like a mediocre one-night stand that leaves you with only a dissatisfied headache and a vague sense of self-loathing, I've been there, I've done that.

Guys, I really don't want this to be one of those Carrie Bradshaw “I Had to Wonder” columns. I’m doing this for fun because I like thinking and talking about sex and dating. And because I've made so many dumb missteps in that realm myself, I think I’m pretty good at giving advice about it. So I’d actually like this to be a real forum for sexual social commentary and advice in a law school setting.

So here goes nothing.

First up: a request. Send me questions! Completely anonymous, can cover anything. Things you'd like advice on; things you'd like to discuss; things you simply want to see me stumble through in print while you laugh about it in Godling. Seriously. Much like The New York Times, this paper seeks to maintain a roughly 98 percent ratio of lifestyle reporting. That means I've got an ample word count that's just waiting for you, my little lawyer-blossoms. So send away.

Next: I want to give an extra-special greeting to all those lovely new 1Ls out there. What up, guys? You'd make some kind of cute civil procedure joke if I had any kind of remote ability to do that.

But that knowledge disappeared during a whiskey-drenched firm recruitment happy hour season. Thus: onward! To begin in your good graces, I offer you a list. I love lists! This one, at the risk of being patronizing, involves mistakes not to make during your 1L year. Or really at all during your time in Vanderbilt, if you can help it. But for goodness sake, at least wait until first semester grades roll in to steer your course into these waters.

1) Beware the seating chart. Oh, don't get all huffy, I'm not going to advise you not to sleep with someone in your section, or even in your Lawyering group; we all know these things happen. And I, in fact, have friends who are happily dating folks from Lawyering and the world did not end. But. The tricky little catch-22 is that a wide-eyed 1L often first gets to know the people next to whom he or she sits. And by “gets to know” I mean “drinks tequila with.” Just be aware, friends. That silly chart up there at the podium isn't just going to get you cold-called when you're utterly unprepared; it's going to trap you if you're not careful. Tread wisely.

2) Related: Don't sleep with anyone who has lived this with someone in your section, or even in your Lawyering group; we all know these things happen. And I, in fact, have friends who are happily dating folks from Lawyering and the world did not end. But. The tricky little catch-22 is that a wide-eyed 1L often first gets to know the people next to whom he or she sits. And by “gets to know” I mean “drinks tequila with.” Just be aware, friends. That silly chart up there at the podium isn't just going to get you cold-called when you're utterly unprepared; it's going to trap you if you're not careful. Tread wisely.

3) Don't be That Girl or That Guy at the SBA party. The tricky little catch-22 is that a wide-eyed 1L often first gets to know the people next to whom he or she sits. And by “gets to know” I mean “drinks tequila with.” Just be aware, friends. That silly chart up there at the podium isn't just going to get you cold-called when you're utterly unprepared; it's going to trap you if you're not careful. Tread wisely.

4) Watch out for GChat. In New York City, it cannot be reiterated enough: The people sitting behind you can see what you are typing. In class, in the library, at Third Rail. Your computer screen is about as private as Mark Zuckerberg's like returning to high school, but doing so with college privileges and freedoms (a legal drinking age; a schedule where we only have to be 15 hours each week; even a twin extra-long bed for many in the dorms). Add to that the bacchanale that is Being Young In New York City and man, things get wild.

And I'm hoping you'll invite me along for the ride as it does.

Please send questions and comments to commentator.truth@gmail.com.

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NYU Students Descend Upon Times Square in Pursuit of Summer Jobs

BY MATTHEW KELLY '13 MANAGING EDITOR

The full fall recruiting season is in full swing, with more than 214 and many 3Ls donning sweaters for suits as they seek a coveted summer associate position at a law firm. From initial reports and anecdotal conversations with firms, it appears that the legal market may be recovering, according to The Office of Career Services, with firms granting more interviews to a smaller pool of NYU students than in the past two years.

The centerpiece of the process is Early Interview Week, which was held between August 17 and August 21 at the Doubletree Suites hotel in Times Square. Exactly 446 2Ls participated, with an average number of 20-minute screening interviews of 22:26, while 99 3Ls participated, with an average number of interviews of 401. In total, students sat for 10,502 interviews. After EIW, firms make "callback" invitations to students for longer grillings from several more layers at their offices. Those who survive are offered by firms that may be held open for 28 days.

In an interview with The Commentator, Dean for Career Services Irene Dorzback said that there are two large trends affecting this year's recruiting at NYU. First, hiring is showing signs of recovery, with firms filling larger summer classes. Second, Harvard and Yale asked firms to grant interviews to their students before other schools, meaning that many NYU students had fewer choices earlier in the month to schedule callbacks. EIW stats are up: there were 19, and already has 45 organizations participating. This preliminary number already matches the final number from all of last year, and EIW is expecting additional employers to sign up as the season progresses. Students should also focus on job postings on JOM, networking, and reaching out to alums. EIW has already conducted a webinar for 2Ls who are continuing their job search, and has posted the handouts from and transcript of the session on OCM. Students finished the week with a mixture of exhaustion and relief at its completion.

The entire EIW process is draining," Katty Fields '13 said. "Between traffic in Times Square, traffic at the elevators in heavy load, and a dearth of caffeinated beverages, you get quite exhausted each day. Despite the fatigue, I am incredibly appreciative of the experience. By nature grieving, I think I did well-prepared," Dorzback said. "Everyone has stepped up a notch, and I think that is reflected in solid early indications of job prospects.

Another factor affecting this year's recruiting season is that Harvard and NYU have been sending formal requests to firms to grant callbacks to students prior to the start of their summer jobs — as required by the grantees presented at Strike-A-Match last semester — than last year. Firms have also told OCS that they were especially impressed with NYU students' preparation and poise during the process.

"This was an exceptionally strong class, and the students were well-prepared," Dorzback said. "Everyone has stepped up a notch, and I think that is reflected in solid early indications of job prospects."

The "bureaucratic" — those mulling multiple callbacks and offers — are strongly encouraged to release callbacks and decline offers after receiving their desired offer, so those slots are filled for other NYU students.

Dorzback emphasized that it is critically important for 2Ls to complete their Full Recruiting Tracker entry, to identify firms where they are "on hold," and to note where they would accept if given an offer. She will personally lobby firms to pull those students off the hold list, which may pay dividends as firms making a second round of offers prefer to get immediate acceptances, rather than wait another 28 days.

"The goal is to help students that don't have offers yet," Dorzback said. "That is why it is so important for students to fill out the Full Recruiting Tracker. We will call firms on their behalf, and it is extremely important for students with multiple offers to release ones they are not interested in, so we can fill up spots for their fellow students."

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A more impactful change in this year's EIW may be that it was held over the course of seven days, with Friday and the weekend off. Last year, on the other hand, EIW lasted for four straight days, from Monday to Thursday.

"I think that while some students welcomed the break from screening interviews, the lag meant that firms interviewing on Tuesday were further behind in considering callbacks. For instance, one major firm that screened on Tuesday typically hires around ten NYU students, but had only seen four candidates for callbacks a few weeks three weeks after EIW.

OCIS will review the scheduling of EIW — from returning to a four-day format to possibly moving up the date — after reviewing student feedback. The tension is between allowing time for NYU students to go on callbacks before classes start, and not eating into student 1L summer job experience and income.

Douglas Ginsburg, a D.C. Court of Appeals judge for S.D.N.Y., will teach the 1L requirement Administrative Law, courses in bankruptcy law and serve as peace agreements at the ends of civil wars.

I am incredibly thrilled to join NYU Law School — the most exciting law school in the English-speaking world," Choudhry said. "The school, a microcosm of New York City, is unique in its global impact."

Gráinne de Búrca, an expert on European Union law will be joining the faculty from Harvard Law School. An author of the most widely used English language casebook on E.U. law, de Búrca focuses on the institutional design of E.U. law and policy and the integration of the E.U. legal order with the international legal system.

"Given the quality of the faculty, the richness and number of centers pursuing important advancing cutting-edge research, the stream of fellows, scholars, and other visitors to the law school, as well as the quality, range and diversity of the student body, NYU Law is incomparably positioned to study legal developments with a global dimension," de Búrca said.

She also cited the vibrancy of the legal community and the "one of her reasons for coming to the school."

Alina Das '05, who has co-taught the Immigrant Rights Clinic since 2008, joined the faculty as an assistant professor in May. She continues to teach the clinic, which works on deportation, detention, and immigrants' rights issues.

"Teaching at NYU Law has given me the opportunity to work with a vibrant community of students, faculty, and staff on some of the most cutting-edge advocacy," Das said. "I'm proud to be a part of it."

NYU Law has hired an Assistant Professor of Chicago law professors Cox, a leading public law scholar, joined this semester as a visiting professor, a constitutional law professor, will start in fall 2012. Previously a visiting professor in fall 2008, Cox is currently teaching Immigration Law and the Rights of Noncitizens. Sumall's recent scholarship includes the dead hand problem in constitutional law; the predicted effect of Second Amendment litigations; the impact of policy; and the phenomenon of teabagging.