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Res Ipsa...: February 1991

Southern New England School of Law

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RES IPSA...

Newsletter of the Student Bar Association • Southern New England School of Law

Volume # 2

February 1991

Issue # 2

PROFILE

First Year SBA Representatives

As most of you are aware the first year class has two SBA representatives Dave Johnson and Bill Manganiello. They represent the A and B sections, respectively. Its not surprising that the first year students wisely elected ombudsmen with outgoing personalities and a certain political understanding. What might come as something of a surprise is to find that both men have a similar "cut to their jibs."

The first years reps have a lot more in common than their shared sense of community involvement. Both are Massachusetts natives, have a background in science and a desire to pursue a career in Environmental Law. Dave obtained his undergraduate degree at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. and a Masters in Chemistry from Bridgewater State in 1987. He is an Applications Chemist who specializes in Infrared Spectroscopy whose work includes technical support and customer interface. He lives in Attleboro with his wife Carolyn and year-old twins Meghan and Dave Jr.. Bill earned his degree in Organic Chemistry at U. Mass. Boston and is working in the environmental field. He decided to study law after several experiences testifying as an expert witness. To his dismay on many of these occasions the legal system and the attorneys displayed a total lack of comprehension of his data. They were often unable to handle the basic scientific information that could conclusively prove a case. Thus motivated, he enrolled at SNESSL and ultimately decided to apply his considerable energy to the fledgling SBA.

Dave's decision to be involved with the SBA is founded on a desire to have a voice in the future of the school. He has already met with the Dean on two occasions and reports productive discussions regarding the ABA accreditation plans. Dave is also pleased to note a high level of participation on the part of the entire first year class, especially on the student committees. Bill is no newcomer to the challenges faced by growing organizations such as our SBA. He has been the President of the Boston Garden Club for the past eight years and is also Treasurer of a community health services group. His purpose is to prioritize the goals of the student body to strengthen the SBA. With the demands of full time jobs, family and school you really have to give these guys credit for taking on the additional responsibility. The first year class and the entire school are lucky to have two such dedicated individuals working with us.

SBA MEETING NOTES

The SBA has extended the deadline to purchase SNESL sweatshirts and t-shirts. These 100 % cotton T-shirts feature the school logo as do the 50/50 cotton/poly blend sweatshirts. The sweatshirts come in two styles, hooded and non-hooded. Prices are \$8.00 for the t-shirts, \$15.00 for the regular sweatshirts and \$30.00 for the hooded version. An additional \$3.00 will get you an extra-extra large size. Place your orders through your SBA representative. Decals sporting the SNESL logo should also be on sale soon . They will cost just \$1.00 and will be available from your SBA reps. as well.

The January 5th meeting of the Student Bar Association revolved primarily around 1991 budget planning and getting the student committees underway. The SBA has now met with the student committees to provide initial organizational assistance. These groups will report back to the SBA on a regular basis, and we'll keep you informed of their activities. We are still looking for students who would like to serve on the Elections and Student Activity committees. These two groups have no volunteers and are designed to address subjects that should not be neglected. Perhaps some first year students can find the time to contribute. Remember, everyone is welcome at the regular Saturday SBA meetings. If you have something to say or an idea for SBA consideration, please see your representative about being added to the agenda.

We have posted a thank you note to all students from Brenda Ozimek on the SBA bulletin board. If you have contributed to the fund we established for Holly Carvalho please take a moment to read Ms. Ozimek's eloquent note. With the able assistance of Stan Moszczenski the Holly Carvalho Scholarship Fund has received a real boost. Author Doug Danner has donated copies of his new Medical Malpractice textbooks which will be offered for sale through the SBA. Our thanks to the author and to Stan who took the initiative to obtain the author's approval for this generous donation.

SBA business over the next few weeks will include following up on some of the information discussed during Dean Cleary's presentation earlier this month. At that meeting we learned that the school is applying for accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. This is a step in the right direction towards our goal of obtaining ABA accreditation. Also covered were questions regarding the grading policy and our progress on the "five year plan". Once the '91 budget has been finalized the SBA can also continue their discussions with school ring manufacturers. We are exploring all options in an effort to bring you the best quality for the best price.

Parking problems plague pupils. O.K., we know about the situation at Bay Bank. Then why was someone blocking the automatic teller *again* last Saturday? Lets get it right folks, be good neighbors and use a little common sense. Stick to the designated spaces. More bad news... from the Times Square lot. They have a security guard and no student parking will be allowed. What is a budget conscious commuter going to do? Try the municipal lot. At .30¢ per hour even a part-time paralegal can afford it. Better yet, car pool, the money you'll save on gas will more than pay for parking.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

ABA Student Employment Guidelines

The American Bar Association has developed some suggestions for the part-time legal employment of law students. While they are aimed at full time students who are employed only part-time and this is the opposite situation of the majority of students attending SNESSL, the guidelines are very useful. They are potentially helpful to students who are moderately overworked or to those who feel stressed, particularly during exams. Because many students will seek professional summer employment and continue with classes the ABA report has been excerpted for your review. Full copies may be obtained by contacting the editor.

These suggestions seek to provide law schools, full time students and employers with a set of goals and principles designed to maximize the educational value of part-time work, while at the same time recognizing the economic necessities of the employment relationship between employers and law students. They were approved for distribution by the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar in December 1987 and were prepared by the Section's Skills Training Committee as an aid to schools, students and employers.

The suggestion should be differentiated from adopted Standards, Interpretations, Rules and Policies which form the basis for ABA approval of law schools. However, the Council strongly encourages all concerned parties to use the suggestions in view of the significant role that law schools ... play in facilitating law-related employment of their students.

Suggestions for Law Students; Full-time students should accept part-time employment only after the first year of law school, and then only to the extent that it does not interfere with their ability to attend classes, perform assignments and prepare adequately for examinations. Students attending law school on a full-time basis should scrupulously adhere to the ABA rule limiting part-time employment to no more than 20 hours per week. Working students should recognize their professional obligations to their employers and their clients, and should observe the highest standards of professional competence in their work. Students should recognize the special obligation of confidentiality arising from the employment relationship.

Suggestions for Employers; Where feasible and consistent with the employers' practices, students should be given an opportunity to explore enough work assignments ... the following areas which can supplement regular legal studies; preparation of briefs, pleadings and other actual legal documents used in practice, legal research and actual legal problems, research strategy and the relationship of clients need to the research problem, case planning & strategy, interviewing and counseling techniques, law office management, negotiation and settlement of legal disputes, diagnosis of clients' legal problems and ethical issues that may arise from actual legal problems.

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