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## A message from the Editor

By Jean-Laurent Pouliot



Dear Reader,

Thank you for picking up a copy of *The Chapman Law Courier*, Chapman University School of Law's very own student-run periodical. I sincerely hope you enjoy perusing the pages of our first edition of the year. As you will no doubt recognize, *The Courier* team has been blessed with an influx of incredible talent, and the senior editors and I have been very impressed by the enthusiasm and vigor of the many contributors to this edition.

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# CHAPMAN LAW COURIER

Issue 1, Volume 1

September 25, 2009

## Alum broke baseball color barrier

By Iman Sorat

Ask some of the baseball fans around campus to tell you who Emmett Ashford is and chances are you will be met with blank stares and more questions than answers.

Ask those same baseball fans to tell you who broke baseball's color barrier and most will answer, "Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson," who became the first African-American to play professional baseball in the modern era when he debuted for the National League Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Fewer fans can tell you that Hall of Famer Frank Dolby broke the color line in the American League later that same year, or that Hall of Famer Frank Robinson became the first African-American manager when he



Chapman alumnus Emmett Littleton Ashford became Major League - Baseball's first black umpire on April 9, 1966.

managed the Cleveland Indians in 1975.

But of the select few who knew of the aforementioned

milestones, fewer still could tell you that on April 9, 1966,

See **ASHFORD** page 2

## Law deans face off on Constitution

By Tara Simon  
Staff Writer

On September 24th, the Battle of the Deans took place at Beckman Hall. Dean John Eastman, of Chapman University School of Law, and Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, of UCI School of Law, were the event's figureheads while Chapman's own Professor Celestine McConville was the debate

moderator.

At tension were the classic concepts of constitutional original intent and evolving interpretation as viewed by these two great constitutional scholars and at times ideological foes. The Student Bar Association, the American Constitution Society and the Federalist Society sponsored this event.



Dean Chemerinsky, left, and Dean Eastman

The Chapman Law Courier kindly acknowledges the support of **Practical Academic Support Services** and **Fleming's Fundamentals of Law** for their sponsorship of this issue



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*A special thank you to Stacy Leventhal for her contributions  
to The Courier*

## ASHFORD: Alum broke baseball color barrier

### From page 1

Chapman alumnus Emmett Littleton Ashford became Major League Baseball's first black umpire, when he stepped onto the field in Washington D.C. to officiate the American League's season-opener between the now-defunct Washington Senators and the Cleveland Indians. Yet, unlike those other pioneers, there is no plaque at the National Baseball Hall of Fame to recognize Emmett Ashford's achievements.

While attending Chapman University in the mid-1930s, and serving as the first sports editor of the school's newspaper, Ashford also played backup centerfielder for a local amateur baseball team called the Mystery Nine.

On one fateful day, the umpire that was scheduled to officiate the game failed to show up. Out of necessity, Emmett took on the role of the judge behind the plate.

Ashford took to the position, and his natural showmanship made his officiating as much of an attraction to the fans as the game itself.

Ashford's story is one of a different era in American history.

The Supreme Court was still four years away from the famous Brown decision in 1952, when Mr. Ashford took a leave of absence from a well-paying job at the United States Postal Service to pursue his dream of umpiring in the Major Leagues.

Segregation was a way of life in many parts of the country in the 1950s and baseball umpire schools were no exception; Ashford was summarily refused admission on

account of his skin color.

Despite such challenges, Ashford persevered and taught himself how to umpire. Blocked from umpiring in the Majors, Emmett spent fifteen years toiling in the minor leagues and developing his unique officiating style.

Part of his eclectic style was to wear French cuffs with elaborate cufflinks when umpiring. Although only five-foot six-inches tall, Ashford's famous "Steeee-ee-rikk" call would fill the ballpark.

When Ashford finally reached the Majors in 1966, he was faced with bigotry from fans, players and even some members of his own officiating crew, yet he never tried to make himself the victim.

He always kept his dignity and his smile as he lived out his dream, which culminated during the 1970 World Series when he was assigned as an umpire.

The Emmett Ashford Society was formed by law students at Chapman to help Mr. Ashford gain the recognition that he deserves, and help him enter the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

We have been working with Ashford's daughter, Adrienne Bratton, to accomplish this goal. If you are interested in joining the Emmett Ashford Society, or aiding our efforts to get Mr. Ashford into the Hall of Fame, please contact Iman Sorat at [sorat100@mail.chapman.edu](mailto:sorat100@mail.chapman.edu).

*Background information  
provided by:  
Larry Gerlach, The Men In  
Blue (Viking, 1980)*

## Career Services: Taking the job market by storm

By Blythe Harris  
Sr. Opinion Editor

“Chapman is my school,” Suzanna Adelizi proudly stated, eyes sparkling, during an interview I conducted with her regarding her recent promotion to Director of Career Services. Suzanna Adelizi is an alumna of Chapman University School of Law, having graduated in 2005. During her time at Chapman, Adelizi was, among other things, a contributing editor with the Nexus Journal and President of the Public Interest Law Foundation. Although Adelizi has many fond memories of her time as a Chapman student, her favorite in-

cluded being a participant in the Elder Law Clinic and externing at the as an extern at the Orange County District Attorney’s office. Both of these experiences allowed her to develop advocacy skills and ultimately made the law “come alive.”

Following law school, Adelizi worked at the criminal defense firm of Kenneth L. Schreiber, after which she returned to Chapman as an Associate Director in Career Services in 2008. Her current position as Director of Career Services allows Adelizi to combine her interests in law, teaching, and counseling in a job that she finds both challenging and rewarding.

See CAREER page 12

## Interview with award-winning Professor Tehranian

By Mary Liu  
Jr. Opinion Editor

If you watch ABC’s *Nightline*, or read articles on legal issues in such publications as the *Los Angeles Times*, you may have heard of Chapman Law professor John Tehranian. Professor Tehranian also recently received “Top Lawyer” distinction from *OC Metro* magazine, recognizing him for his expertise in entertainment law and intellectual property.

This past week, we were fortunate enough to land an interview with Professor Tehranian.

When I asked if he could give the 1Ls advice on how to succeed both in law school and in their legal careers, Professor Tehranian encouraged us to specialize in an area of law that “fulfills another part of you.” For Professor Tehranian, this specialty is the intersection of law and art, as well as teaching his craft. He emphasized that it is “a function of outside interests” that makes a job more enjoyable and drives us to excel at our legal work.

As a partner at One LLP (formerly Turner Green), Professor Tehranian was asked  
See TEHRANIAN page 12

## READER: Articles are now more tailored to law school community

From page 1

*The Courier* has undergone some notable changes this year. Most obviously, those of you reading us at the School of Law will notice that we are now distributing our paper in a color print format, a goal achieved through the fund-raising efforts of our senior team and with the assistance of the Chapman Student Bar Association. With our new format, I am sure that enjoying *The Courier* will be a little easier on the eyes. Another important change we have made this year is in the content you will find within these pages.

While *The Courier* will continue to be a general interest publication, our articles are now more tailored to those who make up our growing School of Law community. *The Courier*’s expanded mission this year is to produce a paper that fosters a sense of community and mutual interest within the School of Law family. You will find much more involvement on the part of our great faculty, and I will be encouraging our many student groups to use *The Courier* as a vehicle to discuss their various and diverse areas of interest. To further foster community ties, I am also pleased to have the honor of distributing an electronic format to our nearly 1,300 alumni. *The Courier* will be

one more point of contact by which past students can keep informed about the happenings at our school and feel involved with current students and faculty members.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *The Courier* as much as I enjoyed helping put it together. If, in the course of your reading, you happen to have a flash of inspira-

tion, remember that this is your paper. Our next edition will appear in the beginning of November. Yet, it is never too early to start working on an idea, and I am always open to suggestions. Happy reading!

Jean-Laurent Pouliot  
Chief Editor

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# Chapman newbies: Class of 2012

By Amber Hurley  
Jr. Opinion Editor

A new group of nervous, wide-eyed first year students have begun to roam the halls of Chapman Law School. They have come with the common goal of gaining a legal education and expanding their horizons with the many opportunities Chapman Law School has to offer. This year's first year law students, with equal ratios of females to males, beat out the difficult odds of acceptance with impressive undergraduate GPA and LSAT scores:

**Total number of JD applicants:** 2,957  
**Total number of 1L students:** 181  
**Acceptance rate:** 31%  
GPA/LSAT:  
**75th percentile:** 3.56/159  
**Median scores:** 3.43/158  
25th percentile: 3.11/156  
**Percentage of 1Ls with merit scholarships:** 53%  
**Merit scholarship range:** 20-100%

Ninety percent of the new 1L class is from California. Others come from Canada, Washington, D.C., and Michigan, to name a few.

Mark Hueppelsheuser, our lone international student, came from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Edmonton is about nine hours north of Michigan. He chose Chapman because of its great reputation and its California location.

He has found California to be a lot more laid back than his

blue-collar hometown. Although he thinks he might die every time he gets on the freeway and is not accustomed to the extreme temperature difference, Mark has enjoyed meeting people and experiencing a completely new environment.

The new Track 2 Student Bar Association representative, Naji Chami, came to Chapman from Washington, D.C., where he lived for a year after completing his undergraduate at Vanderbilt University.

Originally from Tampa, Florida, he misses his mom's Mediterranean meals and his 12-year-old golden retriever. Naji favored Chapman because of the Entertainment Law Emphasis Program, saying, "My life is movies, so what better way to combine a career with what I love?"

Adjusting to the West Coast has been easy for Naji: he finds the people friendly and open and loves the dry heat compared to the humidity of the South.

Jesse Cox grew up in a small, agricultural town in Dowagiac, Michigan. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan. He discovered Chapman during a law school fair and felt it would provide an environment where he could be a "part of a legal institution where there is a sense of excitement for collaboratively learning and teaching the law."

Happily, his expectations have been met. Jesse says that the transition from the expansive cornfields of Michigan to Southern California has been

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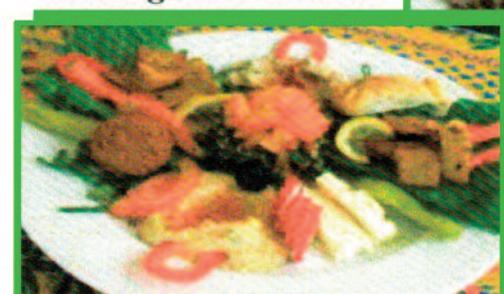
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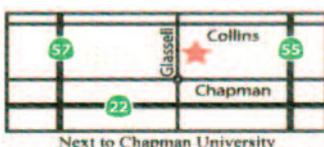
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## Chapman's Federalist Society

By **Darrell Greenwal**  
*Fed-Soc President*

What is the Chapman Federalist Society? Before I answer that, let me first say what the Federalist Society (Fed-Soc) is not.

There's a myth that the Fed-Soc is a right-wing political group. That simply is not true. Fed-Soc does not endorse politicians or policies.

What then, you may ask, does Fed-Soc do exactly? Fed-Soc is a nonpartisan na-

tional network of more than 40,000 attorneys, judges, professors and law students that encourages friendly, constructive debate and discussion on college campuses.

In other words, we encourage civil discourse which contributes to the marketplace of ideas.

Fed-Soc was founded on the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, and that federalism, the separation of governmental powers and judicial restraint are

central to our Constitution and individual liberty.

Chapman's Federalist Society seeks both to promote an awareness of these principles and to further their application through its activities.

The Chapman Fed-Soc chapter is free to join. Moreover, you do not have to be a member to attend our events, although it is helpful to be on our mailing list so you can keep informed of our schedule.

Membership in the Na-

tional Fed-Soc is only \$5 annually and includes many great benefits, the most important of which is the opportunity to network with attorneys and judges from all over the country.

To be added to our mailing list, or for more information please email me at: [green157@mail.chapman.edu](mailto:green157@mail.chapman.edu) or visit the national website at [www.fed-soc.org/](http://www.fed-soc.org/).

## New AMVETS clinic benefits veterans, students

By **Jonathan Mason**  
*Jr. News and Features Editor*

Earlier this year, a group of Chapman Law students, operating as partners would in a small firm, assisted a client to secure lifetime military disability benefits worth millions of dollars. They did this as members of the Chapman Law AMVETS clinic, the first law school clinic for military service-members on the West Coast.

The AMVETS clinic mission is two-fold: to provide Chapman Law students with actual legal experience and to provide much needed legal representation to military families who, in many cases, have no access to legal resources.

"I think it's important that while our service members are deployed in harm's way, we do our part to ensure that their legal interests are protected," offered Brian Jewl, a 2009 Chapman Law graduate and inaugural member of the AMVETS clinic.

Veterans, particularly those wounded in service, often face

a daunting challenge to recover military and Veteran's Affairs benefits promised by the government. "If every law school in the country had an AMVETS clinic, we still could not serve all the military families that are in need," says AMVETS clinic founding Director and Visiting Assistant Professor Kyndra Rotunda.

Since its inception in January 2009, student-advocates have represented veterans and service members currently deployed in Afghanistan, Germany, Japan, California, Florida, North Carolina, and Wyoming.

Professor Rotunda enthusiastically speaks about the clinic the way doting grandparents gush about their grandchildren. She exudes passion for the clinic, genuine excitement for the students involved, and care for the clients. "This has really been a case of 'If you build it, they will come.' Dean Eastman and I both agree that the creation of the AMVETS clinic at Chapman was meant to be."

In mid-2008, Professor Ro-

tunda received a promise of funding from the California chapter of the National AMVETS Veterans Organization. She soon recognized that she had an ideal fit at Chapman Law. Only six months later, shortly before the spring semester, she received a check from AMVETS to start the clinic at Chapman and found five students willing to join her cause.

Under the supervision of Chapman professors and volunteer supervising attorneys, participating students take the lead in all aspects of their clients' cases, from intake interviews to filing appeals.

While working at the clinic, Jewl and the other students gained real-world experience and learned the necessity of quality attorney-client communication, earning a client's trust, and working with an evolving fact-pattern. Although the workload and time requirements are challenging, Jewl says, "the satisfaction of helping individuals who truly deserve our assistance," as well as the experience



AMVETS clinic founding Director, Kyndra Rotunda

and knowledge gained, make participation in the clinic an incredible opportunity for students.

"Chapman has an entrepreneurial spirit which is why we're shooting up in the ranks. These programs make us unique," says Professor Rotunda, who was recently asked to set up a sister AMVETS clinic at UC Berkeley. Eventually, Rotunda hopes to set up similar clinics throughout the country.

## Street Fair in the circle: Good food, drinks and fun!

By Asal Nadjarzadeh  
Sr. Photographer

The Orange International Street Fair, a decade-old tradition, attracts locals, visitors, and Chapman University students every year.

During the three-day fair, the Orange Circle is closed-off to cars and filled with hungry and thirsty patrons, anxious to stuff their faces and destroy their

livers.

The streets are divided into sub-streets, each bearing the name of a country and selling ethnic foods and beverages. There are also several stages for a variety of bands, playing music from different countries.

Friends and family attend to absorb this atmosphere of food, drinks, music and culture from around the world. However, the Street Fair is not just about fun;



Good food at the Orange International Street Fair, which took place Labor Day weekend.

it's one of the biggest fundraisers of the year! Every penny of the proceeds raised goes to local non-profit charities assisting people in the Orange community and surrounding areas.

In case you didn't attend this year, here are some tips for next year's festivities.

First, park in the Barrera Parking Structure (behind Chapman Law School) and walk down Glassell, towards the Circle. Immediately upon arrival, purchase a wristband; you won't be able to drink without one!

Check out Norwegian Street and be sure to enjoy some Norwegian cookies — disks of thin batter lightly fried to a delicious crisp and doused in powdered sugar. In Denmark you'd be smart to try some Ableskiver, roughly translated to mean donut balls smothered in strawberry jam.

If you're in the mood for Mediterranean food, then make your way over to Greek Street and pick up some gyros and baklava, or stop at Italian Street for some spicy sausage topped with marinara sauce.

If you feel like bangers, head to Irish Street where the bangers are topped with sauerkraut, sautéed peppers, and green avocado salsa.

While you're there, be sure to stop by the beer truck for some Guinness. In fact, why not stop at every street to enjoy a different pint from each country — in moderation, of course!

If shopping is your thing, then you're in luck: a myriad of local vendors sell everything including purses, jewelry and sunglasses.

Also, check out any of the music stages and jam to tunes from around the world. This year, genres varied from the ska-punk sound of the band Stupid Flanders, to the Greek stylings of The

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See FAIR page 7

## FAIR: Music also part of annual event

From page 6

Hellenic, to the reggae island rock of Europa.

Finally, top your experience off with some Australian gelato and possibly a funnel cake, if you still have room in your tummy. Follow these directions, and you're guaranteed to have a good time.



Chapman University students and locals enjoyed the foods served at the annual Orange International Street Fair, which took place Labor Day weekend from Sept. 4 through 6.

## Chapman Law Night at Angels Stadium

By Joanne Lembo  
Jr. Opinion Editor

On Friday, September 11, members of the Chapman law community – including students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni – attended Chapman Law Night at Angel Stadium in Anaheim.

Chapman had a strong presence in right field, having sold 199 of the 200 tickets available for the event. The Angels defeated the Chicago White Sox by a score of 7-1, increasing their lead in the American League West division to 5 ½ games. Visiting Professor Sam Garkawe, who is here from Australia, enjoyed his very first baseball game among the 38,375 fans in attendance.

The Angels also paid tribute to the victims of 9/11 before the game's start, as members of the Orange County Fire Authority unfurled an American flag in the in-field.

After a moment of silence and the singing of the national anthem, the honorary first pitch was thrown out by Captain Jeremiah W. Workman of the U.S. Marine Corps.



Chapman students enjoying Chapman Law Night at Angel Stadium in Anaheim

# PROFILE: Chapman newbies

From page 4

easy, although he misses his family, Michigan microbreweries, Cornhole, and fall-off-the-bone hot wings.

Although the first year students come from different walks of life, they were drawn to Chapman by the lure of the opportunity to gain a legal education and contribute to their new community.

Based on what we have seen so far, it seems clear that the class of 2012 will make Chapman proud.

# Get to know a great addition: Professor Parnall

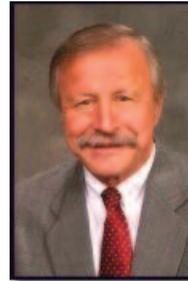
By Joanne Lembo  
*Jr. Opinion Editor*

Theodore Parnall was invited to the Chapman University School of Law as the Bette and Wylie Aitken Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law for the Fall 2009 semester. His predecessor, Richard Faulk, is a hero of his. "Being asked to follow him was an honor," Parnall said.

Parnall decided to take the position because he found the atmosphere "wonderfully exciting."

"I'm amazed by Chapman – it's a new school, but in a short time it's grown into a marvelous institution. It's nice to see a school that offers something special," Parnall said.

Parnall, who is originally



Professor Theodore Parnall

from New Mexico, received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and his Juris Doctor from the University of New Mexico. Following his graduation from law school in 1967, Parnall practiced with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, an international law firm with offices in New York City, where he specialized in

corporate and securities law.

In 1970, Parnall became a professor of law at the University of New Mexico, where he has taught for over 30 years. In 1986, he became the Dean of UNM, a position that he held until 1991. Parnall then became a Professor Emeritus in December of 1997. Professor Parnall likes the sense of excitement and experimentation at Chapman, attributes that he says he enjoyed most at UNM.

Life in Orange County, however, is a considerably different experience for Professor Parnall who has worked as a resident legal advisor or law teacher in Liberia, Senegal, Ethiopia, Egypt, Tunisia, Laos, Indonesia, Vietnam, Madagascar, the Kry-

**See PARNALL page 9**



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## Hard work pays off: A law professor's view

By Lindsay Sullivan

Jr. Entertainment Editor

It isn't difficult to see why Professor Steiner has been named Chapman University Faculty Member of the Year in previous years. His dedication to his students and his life experience has made him a brilliant, kind, and scholarly person.

He not only participated in a very fruitful Judicial Externship with Justice Vogel of the California Court of Appeal while obtaining his J.D., he also clerked for Judge Ferdinand Fernandez of the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. Currently, Professor Steiner is the Director of Graduate, Summer and Joint Degree Programs and is teaching an LLM course in addition to a Freshman Seminar for the undergraduate program—a course he affectionately refers to as “Law 101.” In an interview, Professor Steiner revealed a few details about these elements, and had some advice to all the ambitious—sometimes naïve—law students.

Professor Steiner is excited about this year, and it is no wonder why. His current LLM course is part of an advanced

degree for practicing prosecutors. The participants in this program range in experiences from the DA's office to U.S. Army JAG Majors from bases like Fort Bragg and Fort Hood. Mirroring Dean Eastman's comment about Harvard being “the Chapman of the east coast,” Professor Steiner proudly stated that in local counties, “We have become the go-to school for criminal law attorneys, over schools like Harvard.” Crediting Nancy Shultz and others in the skills program,

“We have become the go-to school for criminal law attorneys”

he continued, “They come to us because our students are ready to go. They prefer us because we prepare students to be on their feet and make contributions as early as possible.”

According to Professor Steiner, Chapman's contribution to public service has set the bar, which any other locally developing school must aim high to



Professor Ronald Steiner

achieve. He named several of our prominent public service clinics, including “the AMVETS clinic, which is an outstanding example of our service to the people.”

Additionally, with regard to being an asset to the community through public service, he says to UCI, “Welcome to the club.”

The opportunities resulting from this experience directly correlated with his Federal clerkship under Judge Fernandez. He says it got him his clerkship because “Judges know other judges.” However, he cautions students: “...of course you must still prove yourself.”

To help prove yourself, he says one of the most valuable classes for a law student is Chapman's Legal Research and Writing class. “A Federal clerk-

ship is very valuable, because you learn how to be a lawyer. In applying, grades matter, do the best you can, but don't underestimate the significance of LRW; this is the most important thing you'll do in your first year...this is critical.” Professor Steiner went on to say, “They want to know if you're going to be a useful asset in the chambers; that you read, write, and speak well and are professional – that you're not going to flake out...and can demonstrate that you have a sophistication in legal research and writing... your resume needs to have something that shows you have the ability.”

Professor Steiner ended his ruminations with a final thought, “There are so many ways of being a lawyer...and what that means is that there is a way for you to be happy being a lawyer. There are a lot of unhappy lawyers; that just means they're in the wrong job.”

“There isn't another job in the world that allows you the flexibility of being anything you want to be. [There are] so many ways of being a lawyer...you're never stuck in one aspect of the profession. If you don't like your practice then do another one.”

## PARNALL: Prof taught law to country's high-level officials

From page 8

guz Republic, Serbia/Montenegro and China. He has also worked on several short-term assignments in Eritrea and Afghanistan. Parnall said he enjoys the excitement of traveling to foreign countries and working on the way the law impacts societies in the midst of change.

His most unusual experience was serving as the resident legal advisor to a Harvard Law School team in Laos, just as it reopened to the West in 1990. The team taught law to high-

level officials in the country, exposing them to concepts that had been dormant since 1975; the ultimate goal being to develop a new constitution for the people of Laos. “It enriched my teaching and kept me charged up about the role law could play,” said Parnall of his experiences in foreign countries. “There is such a thirst for law worldwide. When it catches on it can offer enormous benefits to society: it achieves fairness and equity, and improves social and economic aspects of society.”

Parnall tries to go to a foreign

country about every two years, and said he feels lucky that UNM allowed him to take frequent leaves of absence to pursue his legal interests abroad. The only time he went an extended period of time without traveling to a foreign country was while he was Dean of UNM. “It's the only five year period since I was fifteen that I've had one address,” Parnall said.

This semester at Chapman, Professor Parnall is teaching two courses: International Business Transactions and Law in Developing Countries. In regard

to his International Business Transactions class, he said that he is very pleased with the course and loves the small number of students – about ten to twelve – in the class.

Parnall also said that his Law in Developing Countries class is “exactly the course I wanted to teach. We try to conceptualize and bring coherence to the projects that I participated in. We analyze countries' experiences with law.” I think I can speak for all of Chapman when I say it is an honor to have Professor Parnall here.

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## For your inner nerd: A law blog primer

By Julie Anne Ines

*Jr. News/Entertainment Editor*

Hi, my name is Julie Anne Ines. I am a 1L and I herd and breed ligers for their skills and magic.

No, not really.

I actually write a personal blog about law school news and contribute to a blog for law students. From the looks I get when I tell folks that, yes, I add

to the mass of what some would call the unsolicited advice and drivel that permeate the blogosphere, you would think I just shared an affinity for hybrid animal husbandry or quoted from the movie *Napoleon Dynamite*.

If you are one of those people who refrain from reading blogs because you refuse to listen to someone prattle on about whether they prefer blue pens

over black ones (blue) or give their two cents on the mating rituals of Jon minus Kate (yuck), the truth is that blogs for professional lawyers and law students can be extremely helpful resources.

Law blogs, or “blawgs,” cover a number of topics relevant to the modern law student, such as breaking news about the legal job market, amusing commentaries on life as a law stu-

dent, and advice on how to handle your social media profile.

Here are a few of my favorite blogs in no particular order:

**Above the Law:** Headed by former prosecutor and Wonkette blogger, David Lat, Above the Law is the go-to blog for law firm, law school and general legal news. But do not think for one second that the legal tabloid

See **BLAWG** page 14

## Crude: A compelling documentary

By Melissa Mielke

*Jr. Entertainment Editor*

“Crude,” a beautiful and compelling documentary by Joe Berlinger, depicts the decade-long legal battle to save an Ecuadorian indigenous tribe facing eradication at the hand of Chevron, one of the world’s largest and most powerful corporations. Chevron has systematically dumped 18 billion gallons of crude oil into the Amazon - 30 times more oil than was spilled by the Exxon Valdez - contaminating over 1700 square miles of land formerly inhabited by the Cofán people. While their population once numbered in the thousands, cancer, leukemia, and other deadly diseases have reduced their numbers to mere hundreds. Their water, their land, and their culture have been poisoned by toxic oil

This captivating film held its L.A. premiere on September 17 at the Harmony Gold Theatre with a star-studded benefit hosted by Amazon Watch, an organization that has been instrumental in bringing the lawsuit on behalf of the Cofán. Proceeds from the event will benefit their continued effort in seeking

remedies for the harm done to their people and land.

“Crude” itself is mesmerizing, with cinematic shots back-dropped by the haunting song of the Amazonians asking, “What will happen to the children? What will happen to the world?” Yet, the true wonder of the film are the lawyers Stephen Donziger and Pablo Fajardo, who tirelessly fight against all odds to restore a place where once “life reigned.”

Donziger, a Manhattan based attorney, and his Ecuadorian counsel, Fajardo, pursue all legal avenues in their efforts to reach a favorable settlement with Chevron, from appealing directly to Ecuador’s president to enlisting celebrity help from Vanity Fair and Sting’s wife, Trudie Styler. One cannot help but love Fajardo who, from humble beginnings, learned English so he could become a lawyer and protect his people from Chevron’s atrocities. He had no litigation experience when he took on Chevron’s lawyers, yet he did not fear them because “when I say something, they have to think one thousand times to come up with a lie to counter the

truth I speak.” In 2006, his brother was tortured and murdered, though Fajardo is rumored to have been the true target.

It is dangerous to fight a giant, but it is even more dangerous to sit idly by while that giant destroys a people and their land. The film ends telling the viewer that the litigation is expected to continue another ten years. The children in the film, riddled with cancer, their skin covered in rashes, chant “we want to live.” They may not have 10 years. The rainforest itself, “the lungs of the Earth,” is similarly in dire straights. This urgent need to protect human rights and natural resources calls us as law students to reevaluate our careers and our lives. Are you content to be Goliath: the Chevron lawyer, handsomely compensated for cheating a people out of their lives and land? Or are you brave enough to be David: the lawyer who never tires, never fears, and revels in the small victories that celebrate our humanity?

For more information visit: [www.chevrontoxico.com](http://www.chevrontoxico.com)

## Arts & Events: Fall 2009 LA and Orange Counties

By Lauren M. Hazarian  
*Sr. Entertainment Editor*

With the month of October quickly approaching and the realization that the fall semester refuses to slow its rather swift pace, it might be best to take five: Go to a concert, a movie, a play, a jazz club...well...you get the picture. If you think homework is getting a little overwhelming, the arts world in LA and Orange Counties has a lot to offer this Fall. Take a look at the arts calendar and something will surely catch your eye.

### Editor’s picks for October...

#### MOVIES

Capitalism: A Love Story (Documentary by filmmaker Michael Moore)

#### THEATER

Parade: A Musical at the New Mark Taper Forum, Sept 24-Nov 15

#### CONCERTS

The Inaugural Concert: Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic at Disney Concert Hall, Oct 8

#### OPERA

Los Angeles Opera’s Production: Siegfried by Richard Wagner, Sept 26-Oct 17

## TEHRANIAN: Prof receives top lawyer distinction

### From page 3

what was the most important attribute law students and newly minted attorneys should embody to help one make partner at a law firm. Professor Tehranian responded that there was not one singular attribute. Instead, he stated that what “gives you an advantage is creativity – the ability to think outside the box and deal with a case with a non-traditional approach. This helps you stand out from other attorneys ... especially in litigation.”

And for those of you readers who aspire to become entertainment lawyers, you may

want to know that Professor Tehranian actually “came to entertainment law based on an IP background,” which proved to be very useful in the entertainment industry. Countless other successful entertainment attorneys distinguished themselves as individuals with a deeply rooted personal interest in music and pop culture.

Professor Tehranian claimed that “listening to punk rock and reading US Weekly” can actually open doors for young lawyers, suggesting that such insight can be helpful in “relating to others and knowing the lingo” of the entertainment world in which lawyers prac-

tice.

Professor Tehranian also reminds us that labor law is also an essential service to those working in the entertainment industry. He told me that “Hollywood is driven by collective bargaining and the guild system.” With this in mind, the best entertainment lawyers know that “developing expertise in an area of law is key in the entertainment industry.”

Professor Tehranian also adds that he thinks “pro bono work is not just good” but is also “a great way to get working experience you otherwise might not be able to get.”

By now, I’m sure many of

you are probably looking forward for a chance to meet Professor Tehranian in person and speak with him about the exciting and dynamic legal specialty of entertainment law or enroll in his entertainment law course.

With much enthusiasm, Professor Tehranian says that the entertainment law course is “a great introduction to the various facets of entertainment law.” In the spirit of learning more from Chapman Law’s own ‘Top Lawyer,’ I hope to see many of you Chapman Law Courier readers in Professor Tehranian’s classes soon.

## CAREER: Resources available online on new website

### From page 3

As Director of Career Services, Adelizi has her work cut out for her. With the economy struggling and layoffs becoming common place, Adelizi maintains hope that every 2009 graduate that wants a job will find a job with the help of her office. Adelizi explains that there are still many areas of practice that have not been affected by the current economic dip including employment, bankruptcy, and foreclosure law.

Additionally, she notes that small and mid-sized firms continue to find steady work, a positive observation since Orange

County consists mainly of small and medium sized firms. Furthermore, she points out that although county jobs are scarce, points out that students can look for opportunities in related fields, other counties, the federal government, or non-profit organizations. When asked what skill employers sought the most, Adelizi stressed the simple importance of maintaining professionalism when students or alumni are applying, interviewing or working with an employer.

How can students and alumni benefit from the Career Services Office? Adelizi urges students

to meet with her or Erin Riley, the Assistant Director of Career Services, on a regular basis. “We can’t help students if we don’t know them,” Adelizi states.

Besides meeting with Career Services personnel, Adelizi encourages students to use the Interactive Student Database on the newly revamped Career Services website. This is a new system in which the student fills out information about their experience and goals in order for the Career Services personnel to individually assist students.

Additionally, the website has many new resources available for students in the form of data-

bases and information about employers and networking events. Adelizi is also currently working to initiate contact with local practitioners in order to create opportunities for Chapman students in the form of externships or post-graduation jobs.

Given Adelizi’s innovative approach, Chapman students can be assured that there is help, advice, and possibly a link to their dream job if they only take a few moments to explore the wide variety of resources available at the Chapman University School of Law Career Services Office.

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## Why law school sucks: The Socratic method

By Blythe Harris  
Sr. Opinion Editor

Confident and prepared — these are rarely things that a first-year law student feels during their first few weeks, months, or even semesters of law school. Anxiety and frustration, however, seem to exist in the 1L world with stifling abundance. Some students may wonder why they feel this way. The answer is simple: law school “sucks.”

As you embark on the first day of law school, you can't help but be excited as you think to yourself: “This is it! The first step into a new world and a new career!” All the students are sitting in their seats, the professor enters, and class begins. The professor chooses his first victim of the school year, and targets the poor fellow sitting beside you, who is sweating as

“ A big part of being more comfortable with the method (which requires a thorough dissection of the reading assignments), is preparation which may include re-reading portions of the assignment and thinking critically about the material covered. ”

he attempts to remember what he read over the weekend. He's stumbling over his words; he can barely pronounce the case name.

The professor attacks him with question after question, and with empathy, you wonder when the blood bath is going to end. Finally, the professor sets

his sights on his next victim, and effects yet another slaughter before the morning is over. After class you leave with two thoughts in your head: 1) that you never want to get called on, and (2) you have no idea what to take from the massacre that occurred over the last hour and fifteen minutes. “What point

was the professor trying to make? How are you supposed to learn this way?” you ask yourself as panic slowly sets in.

This is a prime example of a typical law school class, in which the professor uses the Socratic method. For many students, being forced to speak in class is an unnerving, frustrating experience that may detract from a student's ultimate goal: to learn. Why do law schools use the Socratic Method? In Scott Turow's book, *One L*, he states, “[Law professors] feel that Socratic instruction offers the best means of training students to speak in the law's unfamiliar language, and also of acquainting them with the layered, inquiring style of analysis which is a prominent part of thinking like a lawyer.” So if, in fact, the Socratic method is

See SOCRATIC page 14

## An ailing student's plea for a health care cure

By Mike Grassi  
Sr. News and Features Editor

I'm sick.

I'm sick of waiting at the health clinic for three hours only to be told my University health care plan won't cover my particular illness or ailment. I'm sick of the nurse explaining that I'm not covered unless I'm bleeding to death from a gunshot wound. Oh, and it better not be a self-inflicted gunshot wound, otherwise that's not covered either. I ask, though, is it really self-inflicted if reviewing my plan's coverage (or lack thereof) gives me the uncontrollable urge to shoot myself in the face? I pay \$800 annually for University health care only be-

“ Not only am I sick of Joe Wilson, but I actually contracted swine flu listening to him yell at President Obama. It seems as though every conversation about health care breaks down into a class debate, and someone inevitably plays the death panel card or the socialist angle. ”

cause coverage is required as a full-time student. Last year, I went to the clinic twice. For those non-numerically inclined readers, that's \$400 per visit, more than it would have cost

had I forgone any coverage at all and paid out of pocket.

I'm also sick of Republicans complaining about tax increases. You are in a position to help other, less fortunate people

survive, and hopefully that makes you feel better about yourselves. What it shouldn't do is make you angry at those sick, dying people who can't afford to pay their exorbitant medical bills. Those are the people who have a legitimate reason to be angry.

Rich people, do you know what happens when the poor don't have adequate health care? They wait. They wait until their health issues become unbearable, when they have no choice but to seek medical treatment.

At that point, the costs to treat their problems are so outrageous they can't afford to pay

See SICK page 15

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## SOCRATIC: Don't be scared, come prepared

From page 13

aimed at teaching students how to “think like a lawyer,” what can a student do to become more comfortable with it?

A big part of being more comfortable with the method (which requires a thorough dissection of the reading assignments) is preparation which may include re-reading portions of the assignment and thinking critically about the material covered. It is also essential to engage with the material by asking questions in class, going to office hours, joining a study group, or meeting with the class

fellow. Some professors place students “on call” for a specific day or topic; take advantage of this, and make yourself an expert of that material on those occasions. To become more comfortable, besides being prepared, students should just “give it time.” [By putting in the necessary effort, being confident in what you’ve learned and being patient, it will soon feel like second-nature.] Students that learn to embrace the method, and come prepared for it, may even start to have fun – so much so, they may realize that law school does not “suck” as much as they thought.

## BLAWGS: Great resources for law students, lawyers

From page 11

bloggers often take a tongue-in-cheek approach to the stories. They generate their own headlines with contests voted on by their audience of law students and legal professionals. Of note is the site’s recent “Douchiest Law School Contest” that found Duke “duking” it out with and beating Harvard for the top spot. [www.abovethelaw.com](http://www.abovethelaw.com)

**Social Media Law Student:** This blog, by Saint Louis University School of Law 3L, Rex Gradeless, advocates “the use of web 2.0 technologies by the legal community.”

It is meant to be “a leading source of information on the use of blogs and social media for lawyers and law firms from a law student’s perspective.” If you are a law student who uses social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace, or one who has a personal blog, the site offers tips on how to manage those profiles without making your law school administration nervous or scaring away potential employers.

“*Law blogs, or ‘blawgs’, cover a number of topics relevant to the modern law student.*”

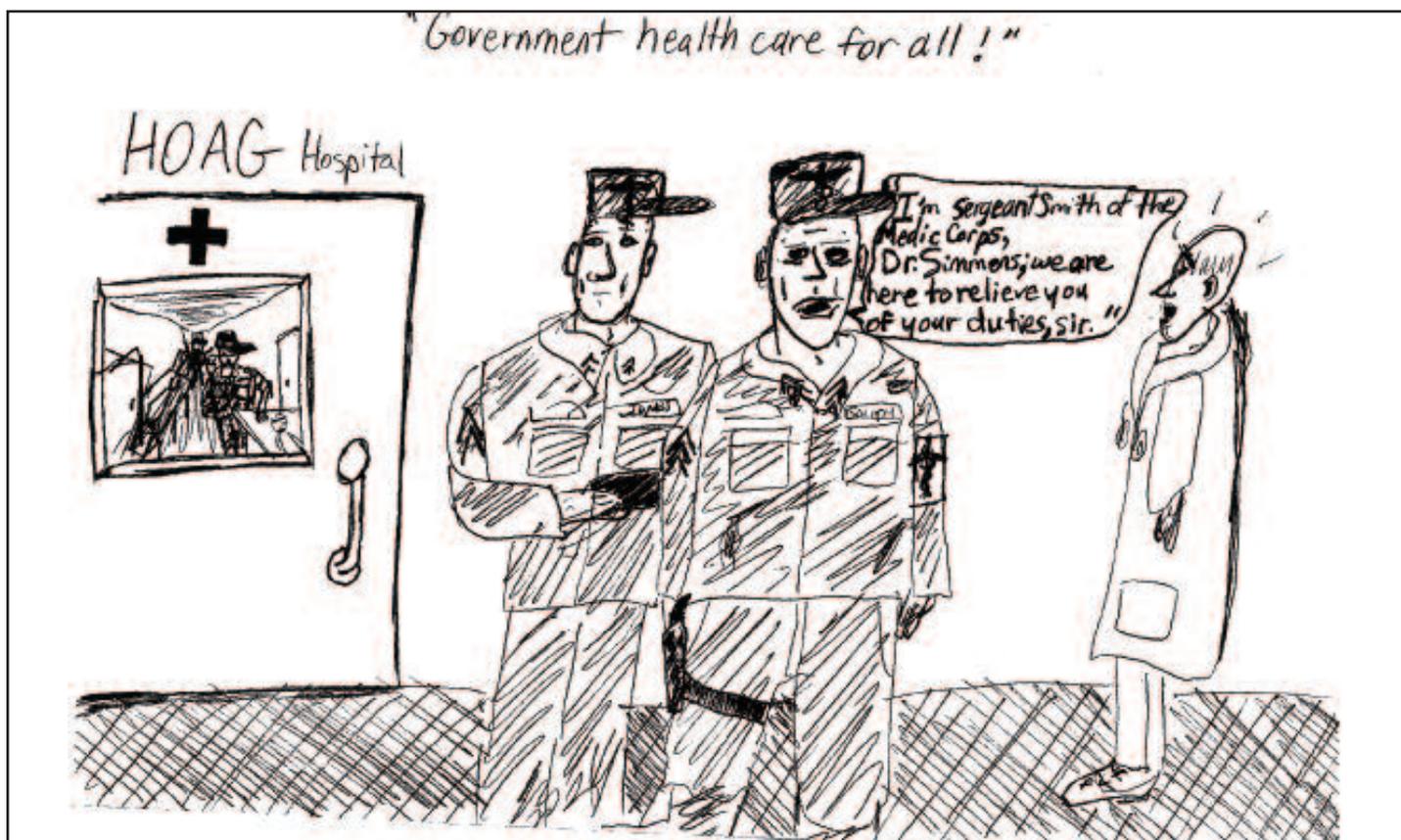
[www.socialmedialawstudent.com](http://www.socialmedialawstudent.com)  
**No634:** One of my favorite personal blog sites is No634 by Dennis Jansen, a 2L at the University of Minnesota Law School.

In addition to tips for 1Ls, Jansen leads a very eventful life. He often frequents the local nightspots, runs into crazy neighbors, and cares for an adorable Bull mastiff, named Harley-Scalia. His most recent claim to fame was being shot over the summer, which merited a mention in Above the Law. [www.no634.com](http://www.no634.com).

For more blogs, visit the ABA Journal’s Blawg Directory at [www.abajournal.com/blawgs/](http://www.abajournal.com/blawgs/)

# Cartoon Commentary

By George Hartline



## SICK: Inadequate health care coverage is sickening

From page 12

and that's when your tax dollars kick in to foot the bill. If the government were to offer a sensible public health care option, allowing the poor to go to the doctor before their issues spin out of control, it would take less out of your pocket than the current private system.

I've heard the argument that if the government takes over health care it will be run just like the post office, and I'm sick of that too. The last time I went to the post office, I sent a letter to my parents 3,000 miles away. They got it two days later. My bill? Forty-four cents. I wish health care were that efficient.

Not only am I sick of Joe Wilson, but I actually contracted swine flu listening to

him yell at President Obama. It seems as though every conversation about health care breaks down into a class debate, and someone inevitably plays the death panel card or the socialist angle.

As much as I am a bleeding-heart liberal who understands the power of civil disobedience, the ever-growing divide between Republicans and Democrats was made no smaller by conservatives caught tweeting on their Blackberries during the president's address to Congress last month, nor was it aided by Representative Wilson's tastelessly defiant exclamation. Even Kanye was sickened by Wilson's ill-advised interruption.

I'm not just picking on Republicans, however. I'm also

sick of the Canadians – it's time we established a public health care option in our own country if for no other reason than we can eliminate the one bragging right Canada still has over us. Have you been to there before? It's horrendous. But when poor Canadians cut themselves because they are depressed about living in Canada, at least they can go to the hospital to get treatment. That's health care I can support.

Look, I'm not saying everyone should have adequate health coverage. That would be absurd. It's a well-known fact that if everyone has access to health care no one will ever die again, the world will suddenly be populated by never-dying, geriatric circus freaks who only come out at night to eat babies, and M.

Night Shyamalan will make a movie about it starring the new-born-version of Brad Pitt from "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button".

That thought often haunts my dreams. Most likely, however, people will just live happier, healthier lives, and, as noted, it won't cost you any more than it does already.

So yes, I'm saying everyone should have adequate health coverage, and anything less is sickening.

Now I'm sick of talking about this. As President Obama has said, the time for talking is winding down. Thankfully, his administration, at long last, is working on a cure.

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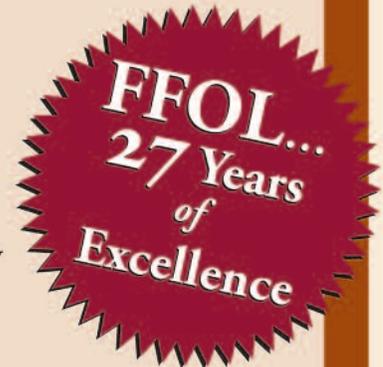
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