

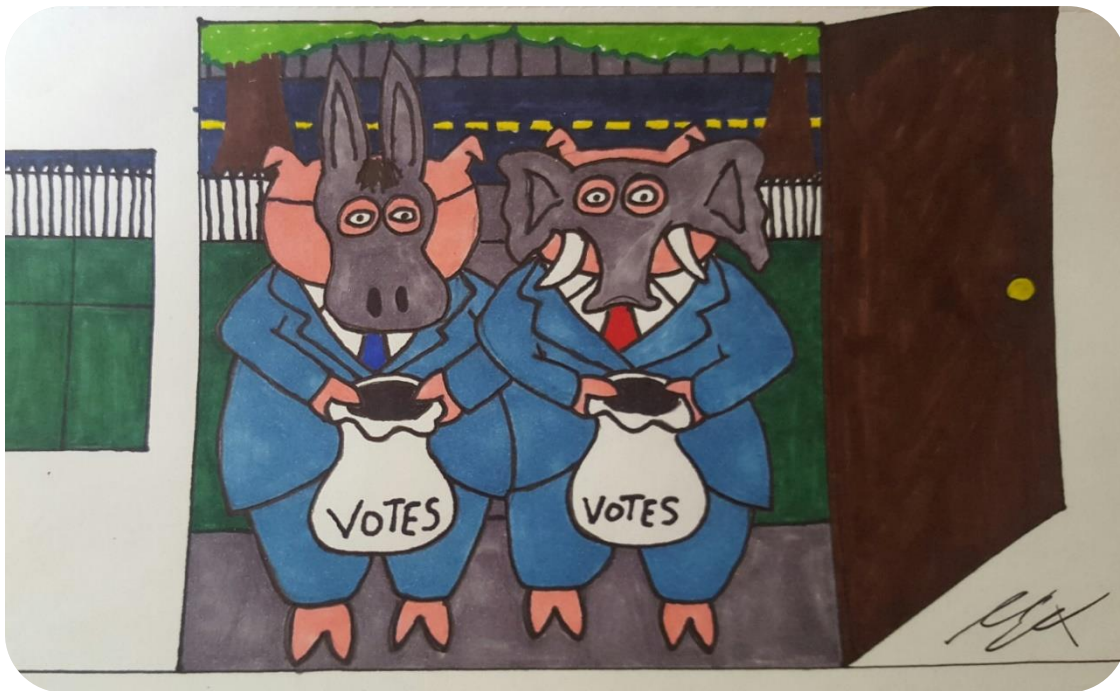
CHAPMAN LAW COURIER

Fall 2016

Dale E. Fowler School of Law

Volume 8, Issue 1

Get to know Dean Parlow!



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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The first issue of the *Courier* is out and I couldn't be more excited! When I became Editor-in-Chief of the *Courier* only a few days before the academic year began, I was honestly nervous but very excited. Membership in past years was low and I had the task of rebuilding this paper, which felt daunting at the time.

However, the semester began and like everything else in life and law school, the challenge of engaging students approached and my editorial staff and I stood firm, ready for the year. Following the Club Fair, our membership numbers swelled with so many talented writers and even a cartoonist or two. I would like to thank Andrew Marsh and Megan Eilers for working so diligently with me to prepare this issue and to all the writers who contributed their time, intellect and talent to the *Courier*. Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for our faculty advisors, David Finley and Abigail Patthoff.

Without further ado, on behalf of the editorial staff and myself, I would like to present to you the first issue of the 2016-2017 school year!

Emily Marsh ('18), Editor-in-Chief



CHAPMAN LAW COURIER

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Readers are encouraged to respond to the articles appearing in The Courier. Comments and/or submissions may be sent to thechapmanlawcourier@gmail.com. Submissions must include the author's name and contact information. There is no guarantee a submission will be included in an issue and may be edited for clarity, accuracy, and brevity if needed.

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Welcome!

Dean Parlow

As most of you know by now, we've recently welcomed a new dean to the Dale E. Fowler School of Law. Dean Matthew J. Parlow is returning to Chapman following an associate dean of academic affairs position at Marquette University. His return has sparked a great deal of excitement among students and alumni, especially those interested in Sports Law. Despite his busy schedule, I was able to catch up with him for a bit and gain some insight into his plans as dean for the Chapman Law community.

What was it about Chapman that made you want to return?

Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law is a special place. The people who are attracted to the law school are truly special people. It's those people that create a family type of atmosphere, a feeling and environment of togetherness. As a junior faculty member from 2005 - 2008, I always felt like I was part of a family and I am very excited about returning to that type of environment.

Chapman's law program has grown quite a bit since you were previously on the faculty; what are your plans to continue its growth?

Chapman has been really effective at preparing students to be practice ready. I want to continue to support the faculty in equipping students with the skills and whatever else they may need to be successful employees. *(After I mentioned that my current boss said he specifically looks to Chapman*

for interns because of how well prepared and sufficient they are, Dean Parlow added): I've actually had multiple firms and attorneys at different events mention exactly that.

What are some of your goals for the Chapman Law community as a whole over the next 5 years?

Overall, the Chapman Law community has a great track record of making a significant impact in the community. For example, our practice-ready education and the work we do in clinics allows our students and alumni to help those in the community who may not be able to afford but require such services.

Looking forward, I want to grow our impact and tell our story more by communicating to the community about all the work that is done here. I also want to create more partnerships within the community to provide students and those in need with more opportunities to obtain help. I'm also very focused on raising our profile throughout the country by bringing national figures to the school as guests and speakers. As of now, we have Justice Alito speaking during the annual *Chapman Law Review* Symposium in February, Judge

Diane Sykes judging the Rutan & Tucker Golden Gavel competition, and Molly Ball speaking as part of the Chapman Dialogue series.

With your background in Sports Law, what are your plans/goals to further the growth of Chapman's Sports and Entertainment Law Program?

Our Sports and Entertainment Law Program is one of the best in the country. I want to continue to support Professors Heller, Ryan, Ernst, and Funk with the great work they have done in furthering those areas of legal education. As far as Sports Law, we will be



continuing the Symposium in the spring. I want to bring in prominent people to talk about their career paths in order to give students a better idea of the business itself.

You seemed to hit the ground running with planning the annual Sports Law symposium; what/who can we expect this year?

I'm looking forward to building on the past symposia. I'm currently working with a small group of students and alumni who are in the sports industry to plan this year's symposium. The ideas and connections from the groups will help make the event special.

What is the one piece of advice you would give to any law student or potential law student regarding pursuing their career?

The law is a noble profession, a helping profession, a demanding profession. My advice would be to figure out what you're passionate about - what you love to do - and do that. We need to find our passion

in order to bring out our best, which allows us to find a path in the world.

What is your greatest accomplishment thus far?

My kids. One of the greatest joys in life is to be able to raise and guide them in life. I take them to ball games a lot; I love reading with them and playing board games; they enjoy riding bikes and scooters while I jog.

Who was/is your role model?

Pamela Ann Rymer, the judge with whom I clerked. She was the hardest working, brightest, most intelligent and most caring person. She was not only a fantastic lawyer and judge, but was also a great friend and mentor. Her example is an inspiration to me.

Dean Parlow has a picture of Judge Rymer hanging just above his desk, as he says, allowing her to look over him as he works.

-Stephanie Brock ('18)

[Source for both photos above: Chapman Law website.](#)

Welcome Chapman's 1L Class!



Welcome Home Rams!

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past year, you know that NFL football has returned to Los Angeles. The NFL owners approved the Rams' move back to Southern California back in January, and residents of the greater Los Angeles area have been on the edge of their seats ever since, eagerly waiting for the football season to start. Whether you're driving down the 405, laying on the beach, or waiting for the bus, you can't miss the "Welcome Home Rams" billboards showing the level of excitement surrounding their return from St. Louis to LA following a 21-year hiatus.

From 1946-1994, the Rams called Los Angeles home. In 1995, the team relocated to St. Louis before returning home for the 2016 season. Based on Chapman's student profile, a majority of the students in the law school were either too young to have seen the Rams play in Los Angeles prior to the 2016 season, or too young to comprehend what was being seen (the average student age is 25). With that being said, any football fan has to be excited that football is finally back in the second largest city in the United States. Whether your team is "returning home" or if your only memory of the Rams is from their days in St. Louis, the electricity of the rising fan base in the greater Los Angeles area is hard to miss.

One issue that has presented itself is the Rams' lack of a home stadium. The franchise has a stadium plan in place to build a \$2.3 billion complex in Inglewood, but it won't be ready until the start of the 2019 season, barring any unforeseen construction issues or budgeting problems. Until then, the Los Angeles Rams will return to where they played the majority of the games in franchise history: the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the current home of the

USC Trojans. The Rams played at the Coliseum from 1946-1979.

Even though their new stadium won't be ready until the 2019 season, the Rams' front office wants to create as much excitement about the move as possible. By trading a medley of their picks in the 2016 NFL Draft and two draft picks in the 2017 NFL Draft to the Tennessee Titans, the Rams obtained the first overall pick of the 2016 NFL Draft. With the first overall selection, the Rams selected a California native, former UC-Berkeley quarterback, Jared Goff. Goff was expected to be one of the first quarterbacks taken in the draft, but the Rams wanted to make sure that he didn't get selected prior to their pick, which would have been the 15th pick of the first round. A fresh face at quarterback in a fresh(ish) city for a franchise that is renewing its roots in Los Angeles was only fitting. Unfortunately, when it came time to release the first depth chart, Jared Goff was listed as the backup quarterback behind Case Keenum, a former undrafted free agent out of the University of Houston.



With the 2016 football season already underway, football fans in the greater Los Angeles area are eager to see how their newly returned team is going to fare in their return to Los Angeles. Will Jared Goff get a chance to lead the Rams in 2016? Can the Rams find a way to make the playoffs in their first season back? We'll have to wait and see.

- David Deberry ('19)

[Picture Source: pexels.com](http://pexels.com)

SIT ON YOUR BUTT AND DO SOMETHING

If you're out and about in South Orange County on Saturday, October 22, or decide to make a day trip to San Diego on Sunday, October 23, you may find yourself witnessing a most curious spectacle. Bike riders. Hundreds of them. You may see a group spinning by with what looks like Charlie Brown shirts donned, or maybe another group who look like they spend way too much time in Tiki bars. And you may even see a couple Los Angeles morning news personalities, or a clown in a grass skirt. All cheerful and motivated for different reasons, but all determined to end Multiple Sclerosis.

For those who do not know, Multiple Sclerosis ("MS") is a potentially debilitating disease in which your body's immune system eats away at the protective sheath (myelin for you biology junkies) that covers your nerves. This can, in turn, result in the deterioration of the nerves themselves, which is irreversible. Women are twice as likely as men to develop it, and if one of your parents or siblings has MS, you have a one to three percent chance of developing it. People with severe cases may lose the ability to walk or speak clearly and there is no cure. As of 2008, between 2 and 2.5 million people globally suffered from this disease.

Now that I have sufficiently depressed you, let's inspire. Every year, these riders fundraise by asking, pleading, and harassing their family, friends, and employers for donations to support the Bay to Bay Tour. In 2015 alone, the riders headed to San Diego and raised over \$2 million dollars for the National MS Society, which exists to help patients with MS get the needed funding for things like motorized wheelchairs, medication to slow down the debilitating effects of the disease, and, most importantly, funding research to find that elusive cure. As of this publication, the ride in October has raised \$957,112.98.

If that were not impressive enough, among these riders who take the weekend to pedal 150 miles are a select number of truly amazing warriors. These are riders who, while they are riding to find a cure for others, are also riding to find a cure for themselves. Sometimes their disease progression allows them to go the distance solo, while others may be seen in tandem pedaling when they can and cheering those around them when they are unable. Regardless, their courage in the face of such an unfathomable situation is without question.

Cycling may not be your thing. It can get expensive and the concept of "saddle sore" is very real. On top of that, even if you are suddenly feeling the urge to sign up for this year's Bike MS: Bay to Bay Tour there is certainly a lot of training required to prevent serious injury. If you are feeling unfulfilled, you might consider the Autism Speaks



Walk on December 14, 2016 at Angel Stadium of Anaheim.

Multiple Sclerosis is very real. The author knows three women personally who deal with it on a daily basis, another who lost her grandmother to complications related to the disease, and a beloved

professor in this law school who has a relative suffering from it. One to three percent seems so small until you find yourself in a 1L class of a 150.

-Michael Funk ('18)

[Picture Source: Michael Funk](#)

One Time With That Guy Named George...

It was early spring 2009 and I was in South Africa with 700 other students at the beginning of a global study abroad program called Semester at Sea. We circumnavigated the globe on a ship, visiting 13 countries along the way. Prior to visiting any country, we would learn about the culture, history, local customs, local scams to avoid, and other pertinent information.

One of the scams in South Africa involved fake taxi drivers charging erroneous/exorbitant fares. We were told to look for specific insignias, certificates, and other indicators to help identify legitimate taxi drivers. Similarly, we were told to keep a look for specific things common among illegitimate taxi drivers.

A group of my friends and I heard about an amateur rugby event about 45 minutes away from Cape Town, South Africa where our ship was docked. We decided it would be fun to watch a live rugby game and head over to the spot where all the taxi drivers congregated next to our ship.

As we arrived at the taxi spot we were enthusiastically greeted by this tiny 5 foot, 120 pound man named George. George had obviously taxied other students before us because he very proudly showed us his business cards, company insignia, taxi driver license, and so on. George wore a nicely pressed shirt, tucked in, and was clean

shaven. We all agreed everything seemed on the up and up and that George would be our taxi driver to and from the rugby game.

The five of us crammed into George's tiny little taxi and were on our way. On the way to the game, George did not have much to say, which was fine because we were all busy talking amongst ourselves. Once we arrived, I went to pay George, but he insisted I wait to pay until he returned us to the ship, which was a smart business move on his part because he had driven 45 minutes and was trying to secure our business for our return journey. I agreed and we set a time and place to meet after the game.

Fast forward to our meeting time and place after the game. It was myself, another guy, and three girls. It was nighttime, 10pm local time, and dark as can be. And it was cold. We were in a foreign country (fortunately South Africans speak "English," though English is in quotes because the South African accent might as well make what South Africans speak be something other than English). There were drunk, local, shouting rugby fans all over. George was late.

Five minutes go by; 10 minutes, 15. Just as we decided to hire a new taxi driver, George pulled up. I noticed George's shirt was now pretty wrinkled and untucked in the front on one side. We all got in the car and George started down the road.

Unlike our trip to the game where George was as silent as a stone, George was now a chatter box. He told us about his kids, pulling out his wallet to show us pictures. Next he described local customs, and what things we just have to do while in South Africa. He even discussed his multiple failed marriages. As this was going on, I leaned over to the nearest person and expressed my suspicion that George had been drinking.

The others thought George was just more relaxed and comfortable with us, having driven us before. I, however, was not convinced. I asked George if he had been drinking. He smiled and turned to me and exclaimed, "Of course!" I ask how much he had to drink, to which he enthusiastically replied, "8 pints!" Uhhh...



We were 20 minutes into our 45 minute drive. We were in the middle of nowhere. Darkness surrounded us. I could not make George pull over and simply find a new taxi driver. I paid extra attention to his driving in case I needed to grab the steering wheel.

Thankfully we arrived unharmed at the entrance of the port where our ship was docked. But as George approached the exit of the traffic circle he should have taken, he continued on to the next exit.

Both exits entered the port, but the second exit was blocked by a security gate.

My protective senses heightened and I asked George why we were taking the second exit. George slurred something about being a part of a port-taxi club that permits him to use this entrance and he wanted to show us a great view of the harbor visible only from this entrance. I accepted the answer but remained alert.

George fumbled around with the key code access pad to open the security gate, but was unable to get the gate to open. After a minute or two, a security guard approached and, spoke (inaudibly) to George. After some back and forth discussion, the security guard opened the gate and we proceeded into the port.

As we turned a corner and George was describing the view, we saw flashing police lights stopped in the middle of the road. A security checkpoint. George muttered what is likely several expletives under his breath.

As we approached the checkpoint, George slowed to a stop and rolled down his window. He showed the police his identification and they asked him to step out of the vehicle. My mind was racing at this point; this was either a legitimate checkpoint or an elaborate scam. Next thing I noticed, George was being placed in handcuffs and sat inside a police car.

The police officers asked us to step out of the vehicle and proceeded to explain to us that George was not a legitimate, licensed taxi driver and he was drunk. The police officers told us they would drive us to our ship. I asked the police officers if I could pay George, to which they informed me I could not because George was not a real taxi driver. What a bummer for George too, because if you remember, George told me to pay him once – when he had returned us to our ship.

But this story does not quite end there. This was a Friday night and our ship was docked in Cape

Town until Monday morning. We ended up befriending the police officers who stopped George and they offered, and we accepted, to taxi us around Saturday night (which is a whole other story for another time).

Come Monday morning as we were all getting ready to depart Cape Town, I heard, over the loudspeaker on the ship, “If you went to a rugby game on Friday night and did not pay your taxi driver, please report to the main deck.” I thought this of course had to be about my experience, so I made

my way to the main deck. Sure enough, everyone I went with was there too.

Long story short, the Dean explained that a taxi driver was outside the ship claiming he taxied five people to a rugby game and they did not pay him. True. What George forgot to mention to the Dean was that he was arrested and the police told us not to pay him!

-Douglas Denhartog ('18)

[Picture Source: Douglas Denhartog](#)

Why Care About Brexit?: The Ripple Effect

Brexit, or Britain’s exit from the European Union (“EU”), has been a highly publicized topic in recent months. In June 2016, Britain held a referendum, in which 51.9% of voters voted to leave the EU. *BBC*, “EU Referendum Results,” http://www.bbc.com/news/politics/eu_referendum/results. Following the referendum’s results, British Prime Minister, David Cameron, announced that he would resign and allow an incoming Prime Minister to invoke the legal process to begin the two-year separation process. However, to date, the separation process has yet to be initiated. Nonetheless, the Brexit vote has already begun to influence the economy.

The consequences of withdrawal from the EU are currently unclear, although it may mean that Britain no longer has access to the EU internal market. The EU is an economic and political partnership involving European countries. Put simply, its internal market allows free movement of goods and people to move within the EU member states (countries). The market operates in a similar way to that in the U.S., where states are unable to impose customs and other taxes on imports from other states. As a result, “[b]ig business... tended to be in favour of Britain staying in the EU because it makes it easier for them to move money, people and products around the world.” *BBC*, “Brexit: All you need to know about the UK leaving the EU”, 1



September 2016, <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887>. Now those businesses may be looking to move elsewhere, in order to maintain their current marketplace hold. Another potential outcome of Brexit, is the failure of the EU itself, as currently Britain stands as a large contributor to the EU’s economy. The European Union is one of the largest trading blocs, and so failure of the EU would most definitely lead to an overhaul of trade agreements, and to general uncertainty as to the global market

Britain’s withdrawal from the EU has not only affected the British and EU markets, but the world economy as a whole. As a result of this vote to withdraw from the EU, the International Monetary Fund forecasts reduced world economic growth by 0.1%. *IMF*, “World Economic Outlook (WEO)

Update: Uncertainty in the Aftermath of the U.K. Referendum,” July 2016, <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2016/update/02/>. Further, as a result of the Brexit referendum, *The Guardian* noted that initially, \$2 trillion had been wiped off world stock markets, although the markets have since appeared to pick up again. *The Guardian*, “Brexit panic wipes \$2 trillion off world markets – as it happened,” 14 July 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/jun/24/global-markets-ftse-pound-uk-leave-eu-brexit-live-updates>.

The U.S. market will also be affected by the Brexit decision. As “Britain is the main channel through which America expresses its economic and political will in Europe[, i]ts exit from that stage will undoubtedly make it harder to assert any American agendas around trade, digital privacy, [and] global tax reform...” *TIME*, “Why Brexit Really Is a Big Deal for the U.S. Economy,” 27 June 2016, <http://time.com/4383202/brexit-america-fallout-economy-fed/>. This may have long term effects on America’s standing with the EU. Further, as of July 2016, almost 19% of the total yearly U.S. exports are to the European Union, and with a weaker GBP and Euro, these sales are likely to plummet. *Census*, “U.S. Trade in Goods,” July 2016, https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/Press-Release/current_press_release/exh5.pdf; <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c0003.html>.

Historically, a strong U.S. dollar has led to trade recessions, which inevitably leads to loss of

jobs. For example, in the 12 months prior to Brexit, the U.S. manufacturing sector lost around 39,000 jobs due to a five-month trade recession. *CNN*, “How Brexit impacts the U.S. economy,” 24 June 2016, <http://money.cnn.com/2016/06/24/investing/brexit-impact-on-american-global-economy/>. These problems are likely to be exasperated by Brexit, as a result of the stronger dollar and uncertainty in trade agreements with Britain. Additionally, in the aftermath of the Brexit vote, the price of U.S. Treasury bonds has increased, which maintains some stability in the economy, but may negatively impact investors who look to bonds for investment in retirement funds due to the drop in yields.

On the other hand, it’s not *all* bad news. Within two weeks of the vote, the S&P 500 index reached an all-time high, showing a calm in concerns over the effects of Brexit. In anticipation of any global economic uncertainty, the Federal Reserve put a hold on increasing interest rates, in order to maintain the state of the labor market. Further, as U.S. interest rates drop due to the increased interest in the U.S. Treasury bond market, it should make it easier for Americans to finance their homes. And of course, with the stronger dollar, it should be cheaper for Americans to travel abroad.

Brexit’s overall ripple effect on the U.S. economy is yet unclear, however, looking at its recent effects worldwide shows that we should care about Brexit and its consequences.

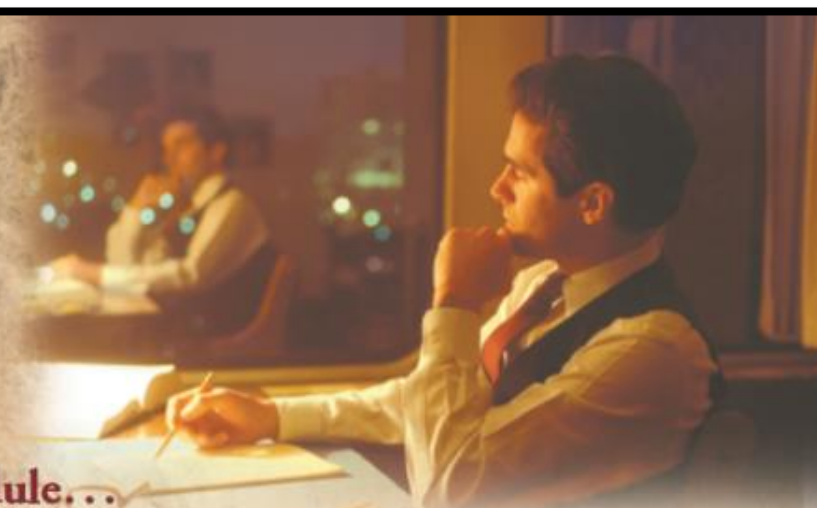
- Leanne Ewing ('17)

[Picture Source: Pixabay](#)





*Think before you write...
learn to write the right way.**



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Surgically Diving into Law School

As if the stresses of integrating into the first year of law school is not enough, having knee surgery during the second week of class is far from ideal. Unfortunately that is exactly what I had to deal with, and it has been far from pleasant. Let me begin by giving you a short background of what the injury stemmed from.

In 2011, I was involved in a motocross crash resulting in the first knee surgery, along with a wrist surgery, and other pains. Since that first operation, there were no complications...until two weeks before law school began. Some friends and I decided to go paintballing to send me off. After the game was over, I squatted down to rest and the rest is history. There was a sharp pain in my knee and I could not figure out how to get rid of it. During the next week, I had an MRI and the doctor discovered that I would need knee surgery or face a locked knee, if I had waited much longer. Now, fast forward to where the struggles really began.

After the surgery, I was faced with having to live practically on my own, get to and from class, oh and don't forget, I am now in a full leg brace for the next six weeks. Everyday tasks, such as eating, sleeping, and anything involving movement became a daunting task. What really added fuel to the fire were the pain meds I had been taking, which had been putting me in a state of delirium. Since I was the type of person to shy away from aspirin, the 400mg Norcos were a shock to my body, especially

when I decided I didn't need them anymore and stopped cold turkey. I have now experienced what withdrawals are. The day after I stopped taking the pain meds was the longest day ever. It was a chore to stay attentive in class, eating was out of the question, and sleep was impossible due to the hot flashes and chills I was experiencing. Thankfully it got better from there.

After that, I was able to focus on my schoolwork, pay attention in class, and crutch my way around without feeling as if I had ran a marathon. Having to use crutches for just over two weeks was exhausting but I was able to make it work. Since then, physical therapy has begun and let me tell you, what a tremendous help. Movement in the knee has come back and I am able to walk, although still with the brace on. Things are looking up.

Aside from the huge amount of help and support from my family and loved ones, my new Chapman Law family was extremely helpful. Everyone I spoke with, from fellow classmates to faculty, was there to lend a hand if needed. It has been very refreshing knowing, even only being a few weeks into class, that I had such a strong and supportive community of peers behind me. Chapman has really shown me how people from all walks of life, and with the same goals in mind, can band together to support a struggling friend. I look forward to my future here with the Dale E. Fowler School of Law.

-Jamil Shaaban ('19)

Externing with a Sports Agency

Externing at a top sports agency is an incredible experience and one that I thoroughly enjoy. While the glitz and glamour of working with professional athletes is enticing in and of itself, I was drawn to this position because I have always loved sports and I wanted to combine my passion for sports with my passion for studying law. I work directly for the General Counsel of Rep1 Sports, and each day is

a new adventure to say the least. Without giving up client confidentiality, I can share that my duties have gone beyond what one would expect in an externship like this, which include redlining marketing agreements, learning how to draft various types of agreements, researching topics, and drafting memoranda for my supervisor. On my first day of work, one of our clients was sued for battery. Shortly

after our client was sued, this story made headlines in the press. We had to go on the defense, locate and consult a crisis public relations firm that assists high profile people, and then issue a statement to the press on behalf of our client. Amidst the pressure that one could feel in the air at the office, I was glowing inside, so excited to have experienced a situation like this on my very first day.

Since that day, things have definitely settled down in the office, but my duties have been nothing short of interesting. In addition to working directly for the sports agency, I also assist the General Counsel in doing work for the agency's digital media affiliate. For example, I have had to research topics relating to the fair use of copyrighted materials as it applies to news and provide a memorandum to my supervisor regarding my findings. What was awesome was the fact that this task at work coincided perfectly with discussions in my classes regarding copyright and fair use. This exemplifies how valuable an externship experience can be because at

the same time I was learning the law, I was able to apply it in a real world situation.

Even though I have only been externing at Rep1 for about a month, I already see how beneficial this practical experience has been and will continue to be. My supervisor sets aside his valuable time to provide explanations to me and insight into industry norms. Since time is money, many externs are not as fortunate as I am to receive this one-on-one guidance each week, so I am especially cognizant of the wisdom that my supervisor imparts to me. In addition, I appreciate the criticism I receive because it not only makes me produce better work, but it also teaches me to be more receptive of criticism, which can sometimes be a difficult thing to stomach. Overall, while a sports agency is a very enticing place to work because the clients are high profile athletes, I truly enjoy working here because contract law and intellectual property law interest me, and I know I want to pursue a career down this road.

- Sasha Ostrovsky ('18)

#DigitalNotes

Why Laptops in Classes Should Not Be Prohibited

We've all done it. Replied to a text, checked Facebook, taken a BuzzFeed quiz, or even just pulled up a case brief on our laptops in class. It's been said time and again, our world is a digital one. That is a point that requires no belaboring. However, the impact of this connectivity is causing a shift – some may say a backward shift – toward the prohibition of laptops in the classroom.

Arguably, the technological evolution of the last one to two decades, which allowed students to regularly utilize laptops in the higher education setting, was the most significant shift in the learning environment the world has ever seen. The ability to transcribe information rapidly, create a seamless filing system, and never worry about your pen running out of ink has made life easier for students

in many ways. Today though, there have been multiple studies showing that the devices we love have a negative impact on our learning ability.

Thanks to these studies, some professors today are beginning to revert their classrooms back to a pre-digital era. For anyone who has experienced, the dreaded "NO LAPTOPS ALLOWED" heading on a syllabus, the frustration is nearly instant. Immediately following is a series of what-if questions:

- What if I miss something?
- What if I can't write as fast as I can type?
- What if I need notes from a friend?
- What if I need to look something up?

These are all valid questions. Unfortunately, many professors who are of the mindset that laptops should not be allowed often reply to these concerns with some variation of “you’ll be better about taking quality notes, rather than quantity” or “you’ll pay more attention and therefore retain the information better.”

When it comes to the law school setting, I disagree. This argument by professors may be applicable under different circumstances, but in law school the laptop is truly essential for three primary reasons.

Obtaining Content. I concede that typing notes does result in more quantity than handwritten notes for most people. As an individual whose words per minute often hover in the 90-100-word range, my ability to accurately take down the majority of a lecture may be above those students who are not rapid typists. However, that being said, for anyone who can type faster than they can write – arguably most people who grew up using computers – the content is still making its way to the computer. When it comes to the content of law school, it is usually better to have excess or even redundant information, rather than miss something altogether. What if you never wrote down what “OTNFPSJ” means? Where would you be in life? Identifying gaps in your notes is far more challenging than ignoring a non-vital sentence. These informational chasms are particularly harmful to a student’s education if a professor does not provide a PowerPoint or some other supplemental lecture material to ensure that your notes are on the right track.

Educational Aids. Official polling prior to this article was not an option, however an educated guess could likely put the percentage of law students who have utilized at least one case brief somewhere in the 90% range. Accessing documents like case briefs during a course can result in at least two viewpoints. The first: students are ill prepared and therefore rely on briefs to skate by when called upon. The alternative: students often need the aid of a case brief to understand the complexities of a legal term of art or to unbox a lengthy Scalia-style dissent. Of course, those professors who are anti-laptop likely

rely on the first view. Therefore, I present a somewhat less-controversial educational aid, this little known tool called Google. Access to the Internet while in class allows students to do everything from look up the exact language of FRCP 12(b) defenses to defining Res Ipsa Loquitur. Questions by students are all too often left unanswered because of fear. In a classroom of 50 people, the last thing someone wants to do is ask what seems to be a “dumb” question. Unfortunately, these questions are probably lingering in the minds of others too. With a laptop in front of them, students have the power to silently answer questions without fear of judgment, and the ability for the lecture to continue.



Search and Long-Term Use. This is perhaps the least discussed piece of the puzzle regarding laptops in the classroom. Digital course notes are arguably the easiest way for students to prepare themselves for final exams each semester, and of course that ever-looming final of final exams: the Bar. If handwritten class notes are kept in a notebook that holds up throughout the semester, without too many coffee stains, it is possible to craft an outline when the time comes – assuming you can read the chicken scratch you laid down while writing at the speed of light. However, what handwritten notes lack is an ability to search. Assume over the course of a semester you’ve filled one standard-size notebook with handwritten notes. The average size being 100 pages, utilizing front and back, you’ve got 200 pages of notes. Unless you’ve been diligently utilizing sticky flags in your notebook all semester long, it is going to take a significant amount of time to find the information you’re looking for – time that would be better spent reviewing the information. After finals

are complete, the longevity of digital files (save any coffee-induced disasters across your keyboard) is much lengthier. Notes taken for a contracts class during 1L can prove helpful for practice foundations in 2L, which would likely be helpful during 3L's bar prep, and may even be helpful as a first year associate. Finding and aggregating information from the universe that is law school is significantly easier when notes are compiled digitally.

The impact of laptops in the classroom is a topic that will surely be debated for years to come. It

is important to remember however, that the allegedly negative impacts some researchers have found do not completely shadow the benefits that come with these tools. Students should have the right to make their own decisions about what best aids their learning style and for many people the use of a laptop and its numerous benefits will be key to their success in law school and beyond.

-Megan Eilers ('18)

[Picture Source: PublicDomainPictures.net](http://PublicDomainPictures.net)

I am medium-old.

I am not so old, mind you, that my eventual graduation will make the local news as a human-interest piece with an adorable old codger wearing practical, high-wasted pants and sensible shoes under the flowing robes of academic accomplishment. Rather, mine is the kind of old in which the *idea* of consuming alcohol holds far more appeal than the act, which generally leaves me a little sleepy and apt to tell stories of times I think I remember having fun. That aside, this narrative will serve not as a trip down memory lane, so you won't have to hear stories of mushroom haircuts and alternative rock-- of the earlier Clinton campaign and how great "Seinfeld" was the first time around.

Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie warns us of the danger of a single story; the simplified distillations of cultures, countries, and human experiences that enable us to develop a set of heuristics which absolve us of considering our biases, in pursuit of efficient stereotyping. When considering my own path to Chapman, the temptation to self-distill is strong; everyone has an "elevator speech," the flattering-but-not-exaggerated one-page resume, the lazy desire to sink into standard tropes of "golden child" or "comeback kid" or "underdog" that lead us down a comforting and familiar path where the struggles simply are destined to be overcome, the triumphant end is predetermined, and the third act ends replete

with succor and resolution. Any and none of these fit this transition in my life, because these satisfying and self-contained "single stories" all describe moments in the arc but in sum have the perspective and emotional depth of a shot glass. In my past life, both excellent decisions and rash impulses, well-considered steps and uninformed leaps, and in coming here I have tried to parlay opportunity and ability into a grand endeavor in which persistent hard work counts for easily as much or more than the rest.

Such a major endeavor necessitates adaptation. Understanding rapid evolution in an environment allows one to re-evaluate dynamically a situation and determine preconditions for success, with respects to Sun Tzu. Natch, my first stop in preparing for scholastic warfare led to my local office-supply shop. It is here I found myself sounding like Abe "Grandpa" Simpson, lamenting how this used to be a nickel, that was a dollar, and I could get a whole ream of copy paper for three lollipops and a handshake. For you more recent graduates, I now feel your pain more acutely and understand your parsimonious attitudes toward lending out pens.

Recovering from the shock and expense of building a rudimentary desk space, I here tackle the next painful step in my academic evolution:

wrestling my own ego. Obvious to those of you who may have met me, I do not refer to ego in terms of narcissistic conceit; again, with being medium-old, I believe that bird has flown. Rather, my ego reared up when I began my first reading assignments. As an ex-liberal arts major, I devour volumes before breakfast, snack on scholarly articles before supper, and ruin my dinner with words, words, words. Legal reading, however, has proven itself a far less digestible beast. I went from eyes dancing around text nimbly and precisely, swooping in and lifting key words and phrases while adroitly sidestepping excesses of verbiage, to the equivalent of scratching my finger along the page and moving my lips to keep track of where I am. Instead of taking umbrage at this humbling and refusing to accept the need to reconfigure my expectations, I choose the route of slowing down, plodding along, and taking inspiration in the tortoise rather than the hare. Add in the pace and volume of my Criminal Law class alone, and I find hours (and hours and hours) missing from my day. As the semester progresses, though, I find myself gliding a little more ably, less akin to trudging through molasses and more like wading through maple syrup. Hopefully by midterms, I will have accelerated to splashing through agave nectar.

That said, I am pleased and astounded that this move from the working world back into academia has gone as smoothly as it has thus far, in great part thanks to the able and proactive administrators, and quite honestly, many of you. Do take a moment to consider that when you look around your classes, within your comrades and competitors lie a wealth of stories, journeys, and struggles. Some have taken a meandering route through careers, mistakes, and fortunate coincidence to arrive at their corner of the lecture halls. Some have had razor-sharp focus on law, and still more explored other disciplines before realizing that the intellectual tickle of reason and discourse spiced with the confrontation of competing ideals cannot be beaten for both drama and challenge. Whatever your origin story, this is your latest chapter—write it well, make it compelling, and good luck on finals. You have started outlining, right?

-Robert Skriniaz ('19)

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QUICK! EASY! THE ULTIMATE WAY TO BE NUTRITIOUS IN LAW SCHOOL!

Nutrition plays a huge role in overall wellness and will save you when finals comes around, helping you stay healthy instead of getting sick from all those late nights of studying. Although it is difficult to take the time to make healthy meals, our brains deserve those nutrients after the exponential amount of brain power we use on a daily basis.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and studies say that it is the most skipped meal. Completely understandable. Once I am able to force myself out of bed and to the coffee pot, I scramble around trying to pick out clothes, feed my Frenchie, and get my never ending stack of books together. Every morning though, I still (somehow) make time for breakfast. How you ask?! It's simple, really: prep your breakfast the night before, and you no longer need to think about what to make in your few moments before heading out the door for school or work.

My favorite breakfast to prepare the night before is overnight oats. I know what you're thinking: "yuck, who likes oatmeal." But TRUST ME, overnight oats is truly a life saver and adds that little extra flavor to the boring hot oatmeal. Did I mention it takes about a minute to prepare and will leave you full until you can make time to squeeze in your next meal?

The best thing about overnight oats is that you can customize it to just how you like it! Don't like chocolate? Switch it up and go with vanilla. Don't like vanilla? Be basic, embrace the fall culture, and add some pumpkin instead. The possibilities are endless!

-Lauren Fitzpatrick ('18)

Overnight Oats Recipe

½ Cup Rolled Oats

1 Scoop Chocolate Protein Powder

½ Cup Unsweetened Almond Milk (or the milk of your choice)

1 Tbsp Chia Seeds

1 Tablespoon Peanut/Nut Butter

Toppings: your favorite fruit!

Directions: Mix together the oats, protein powder, milk, and chia seeds. Leave it in the fridge overnight. In the morning, add the peanut/nut butter and your favorite fruit and enjoy!

There you have it, the simplest recipe known to man! If I can make time for it, I know you can too.



[Picture Source: Lauren Fitzpatrick](#)

Biology and Law School?

There just might be chemistry!

Is it truly possible for a student to be mentally prepared to face the challenges that the first year of law school brings? If this proposition is possible, will preparation correlate to undergraduate major/minor studies? The trait that sets law school apart from many other graduate study programs is the diversity of knowledge law school students possess, based on the fact that acceptance to law school is not contingent on undergraduate majors, or necessary prerequisite courses. But does majoring in political science or pre-law as opposed to biology really give students an advantage, or could it possibly be disadvantageous?

Prior to law school, students typically studied humanities, philosophy, writing, history, and a variety of other subjects similar to these. My four years as an undergraduate student at the University of Redlands was likely quite different than many of the other law students at Chapman. I received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Biology with a minor in Philosophy. The reactions I receive when I tell this to other students mostly involve questions like, "Why would you do that to yourself?" or "What are you doing in law school?" However, contrary to the popular idea that being a biology major would not aid in my mental preparation for law school, I find (so far anyway) that studying biology has helped in many ways.

Getting a college degree in any field of study is far from easy, but getting a degree in biology often carries the weight of extra hours spent in labs, excessive hours spent studying, tiring and frustrating black and white concepts, and all-around exhaustion from spending a year studying organic chemistry. Although I can't really say the organic chemistry will help me much in the future, I can say that the study habits I developed from enrolling in such difficult

and time-consuming classes have made the adjustment into 1L year a tad more manageable. And despite the fact that I'll never really need to know how to mate fruit flies to understand genetics, the formalized and straight-forward lab reports I had to write in these classes have provided me with an easier comprehension of writing case illustrations and applications for office memoranda. Although biology might not have directly carried over to studying the law, the underlying skills that I developed during the process of studying biological mechanisms and chemistry elements have proven to be useful thus far.

This only makes me wonder though, how does majoring in something related to law, like political science or pre-law, aid or not aid in the transition from college to 1L year?

Mikaela Jackson is a 1L student who attended college at the University of Arizona. Although we both decided to attend law school at Chapman, our paths to get here have proven to be substantially different. Mikaela received her degree in Political Science and Pre-Law, and when I asked her how studying these topics helped or did not help her as a 1L, she responded, "Political Science involved studying a lot of international politics and current events, which has proven to be somewhat helpful. Pre-Law emphasized more on reading cases and trying to comprehend the main ideas from each case, which has been very helpful since that is similar to what we do in our first year of law school."

So, I guess the take away from all of this is that you can major in a wide variety of different subjects, and each subject might prepare you in a different way than another, but I'm pretty sure it's safe to say that the transition into being a 1L is not easily managed, and nothing can really prepare you

for the challenges the year will bring. Although I miss studying about cells, cancer, drugs and the human body, I am grateful for the skills I have developed from learning about all of these things,

and the ability to apply them while studying the law.

-Tori Burk ('19)

Need a Small Business Loan? Consider the Alternative

Let's say you are a small business owner, master of your craft, able to serve your clients with any of their needs. Your business is doing so well and growing so fast that in order to keep up you need to take out a loan. Where do you go to get a loan? A bank; simple enough right? But, what do you do if a bank rejects your application for this business loan? This is where most business owners lose hope and start looking for alternative sources. They will spend their time searching "loans" or "small business loans" on the Internet and before you know it they end up on an alternative lending website that promises to provide them with a loan in under twenty-four hours. Since most business owners need cash quickly, they accept the loan and don't even realize that their interest rate on their one-year term loan just doubled.

Traditional lending is defined as getting a loan from the bank at a certain low interest rate and promising to pay it back over a set period of time. However, some small business owners do not meet the strict criteria of the bank due to poor credit, low revenues, or their time in business is not sufficient. Alternative lending on the other hand, is a term used to describe the wide range of loan options available for non-bankable applicants. The alternative lending industry became prominent in the early 2000s and now competes with the banks to finance the small business market.

I have worked in the industry for over two years now and have figured out that alternative lenders focus mainly on cash flow and the ability of

the business to repay the loan, whether it be by a pending contract or by factoring a company's account receivables. Because alternative lenders are not as regulated as banks and are mostly backed by private investors, they have more of a free range to decide their own terms. With this ability, powered by financial algorithms to determine a business owner's risk, alternative lenders decide on an interest rate that is just affordable for the client, but fail to recognize the amount of financial strain they put on a small business. Cash advances in particular are notorious for this: putting small businesses owners out of business because they charge a minimum of forty percent interest on their loans, have maximum terms of six months, and require loans to be paid back daily.

Everyday small businesses fall victim to these usury rates and continue to take on these loans because of how easily accessible they are. Realizing this impact on small businesses, I have dedicated my lending company, Bloom Lending, to helping small business owners find the best financial option. Using my prior work experience, I have created strategic partnerships with specialized lenders that share the same mission and have helped multiple small businesses get the financing they deserve. Apart from cash advances, many alternative lenders, including Bloom, are now focusing on providing rates comparable to the bank and are constantly adapting to fit their client's needs.

-Harrison Rofles ('19)

A California Voter Guide for the November 8th Ballot

In most countries, states, and municipalities, ballots are simple two or three page booklets with clear choices and only a few candidates or options to choose from. But this is California! In the strong tradition of direct democracy and the ever-prevalent voter sponsored initiative, California has a whopping number of ballot measures this November.

In an effort to remain neutral, each summary below is written as objectively as possible. Before you vote in November, it is crucial to take some time and conduct research into each of these measures so you can walk into the ballot box in November well informed and ready to vote.

Without further ado, here are the seventeen ballot measures that will appear on your voter booklets this fall.

Proposition 51: Public School Faculty Bonds

This measure seeks to borrow \$9 billion in school bonds that would then be used for construction and modernization projects for K-12 schools and community colleges across the state. Current estimates show it will cost \$17.6 billion to pay off the principal of \$9 billion and interest of approximately \$8.6 billion with yearly installments of \$500 million over the next 35 years.

Proposition 52: Voter Approval to Divert Hospital Revenue Dedicated to Medi-Cal

Promoted by the California Hospitals Association, this measure will make it harder for the California Legislature to divert Federal Medi-Cal funds that the state receives from Medi-Cal programs that help pay for healthcare costs for poorer communities and child-oriented healthcare.

Proposition 53: Voter Approval Requirement for Revenue Bonds Over \$2 Billion

This voter initiative looks to require future statewide votes on any revenue bond that is bigger than \$2

billion for all government projects. For your general knowledge, revenue bonds are repaid by revenue that the project generates over time. Currently, revenue bonds do not require voter approval. The majority of California government projects currently cost in excess of \$2 billion.

Proposition 54: Public Display of Legislative Bills Prior to Vote

The measure seeks to abolish the practice of last-minute amendment that California Legislators are currently allowed to add to legislation directly before it is sent to the governor to be signed into law. The measure would force Legislators to make legislation available online for public review for at least three days before a final vote.

Proposition 55: Extension of the Proposition 30 Income Tax Increase

In 2012, Proposition 30 raised taxes by between 1% to 3% on incomes over \$250,000 a year. This measure would extend the 2012 measure for 12 years past its 2018 expiration date, to 2030. It states that the extra tax revenue would be applied to California schools, and government healthcare programs.

Proposition 56: Tobacco Tax Increase

This measure will raise the tobacco tax by \$2 per pack. Four years after a similar initiative failed, this measure would raise taxes on tobacco and electric cigarette products that contain nicotine and funnel the tax revenue into healthcare and tobacco-control programs.

Proposition 57: Parole for Non-Violent Criminals and Juvenile Court Trial Requirements

Spearheaded by Governor Jerry Brown, this measure seeks to reform and reduce criminal sentencing and the prison sentences scheme that has helped produce the largest inmate population in the United States over the past 40 years. Under this measure, prisoners serving time for nonviolent crimes would become eligible for early release based on their efforts to earn educational credits, and good behavior. Additionally, the measure would end existing laws that send juvenile offenders immediately to adult court hearings.

Proposition 58: Non-English Languages Allowed in Public Education

If passed, this measure would repeal a section of the 1994 educational ban on teaching in a language other than in English. This measure would effectively allow county offices of education and school districts to make the final decision about which language or languages can be used in the classroom.

Proposition 59: Overturn of *Citizens United* Act Advisory Question

A rather unusual question, not measure, this proposition asks the California electorate whether they want California officials to work in their official capacity to overturn the 2010 Supreme Court Case, *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), which allows for unlimited spending on federal campaigns by corporation and unions and can be only overturned by an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This measure is not binding but is meant as a way for California voters to express their opinion about money in politics.

Proposition 60: Condoms in Pornographic Films

This would require performers in adult films to use condoms during explicit sexual acts and scenes. Penalties can be imposed against producers who do not comply with the new law.

Proposition 61: Drug Price Standards

This measure bans state agencies from paying more for a prescription drug than the lowest price the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays currently for the same drug. If passed, the new price ceiling would apply when the state is the purchaser and when the state's agencies are the final source of the payment.

Proposition 62: Repeal of Death Penalty

Competing against Proposition 66, this initiative would repeal the 1978 law that imposes the death penalty for heinous crimes. Prisoners currently facing the death penalty would have their sentences changed to life without parole. Part of this measure would create a system whereby the money prisoners earn in prison would be sent to victims or their families as restitution.

Proposition 63: Background Check for Ammunitions Purchases

If passed, this measure would ban the sale and possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines in California and would impose background checks in order to purchase ammunition. Additionally, it would create new felony charges for gun theft and new rules aimed at preventing felons and other disqualified people from possessing firearms.

Proposition 64: Marijuana Legalization

Under this proposition, marijuana and hemp would become legal under state law for everyone over the age of 21, though it technically is still illegal in the eyes of the Federal government. Taxes will be collected at both the state and the local level, with over \$1 billion in expected tax revenue in the first year of legalization which will be directed toward law enforcement, marijuana educational programs, and community reinvestment initiatives for communities across the state severely hit by the War on Drugs.

Proposition 65: Dedication of Revenue from Disposable Bag Sales to Wildlife Conservation Fund

Sponsored directly by the plastic bag industry, this measure would require that any fees charged for either paper or reusable bags be earmarked for environmental programs.

Proposition 66: Death Penalty Procedures

In contrast to Proposition 62, this measure would accelerate the death penalty's legal process by setting up new time limits on the appeals process by putting the trial courts in charge of initial petitions challenging death penalty convictions. Like its competing measure, this would create a system whereby prisoners would pay restitution to victims and their families through work in prison. It stipulates that Proposition 62 would be void in the event Proposition 66 receives more affirmative votes.

Proposition 67: Plastic Bag Ban Veto Referendum

This referendary vote will ask voters to either uphold or overturn a law (called Senate Bill 270) signed by current Governor Jerry Brown in 2014 that imposes a statewide plastic bag ban. A vote of “yes” will uphold the law and a vote of “no” will overturn Senate Bill 270.

There you have it! Seventeen Ballot Measures, all up for your consideration on November 8, 2016. Make sure to do your own research to determine where you stand on the measures and happy voting!

-Andrew Marsh ('18)

All information sources from www.ballotpedia.org, “California 2016 ballot propositions.” Last accessed: September, 19, 2016 and from the *Los Angeles Times* Article, “A voter guide for the fall ballot.” Written

by John Myers, originally published on July 3, 2016 in the *Los Angeles Times*.

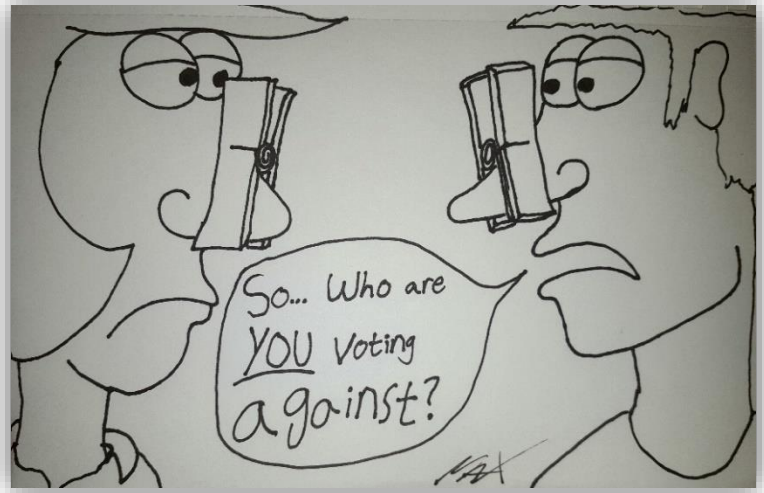
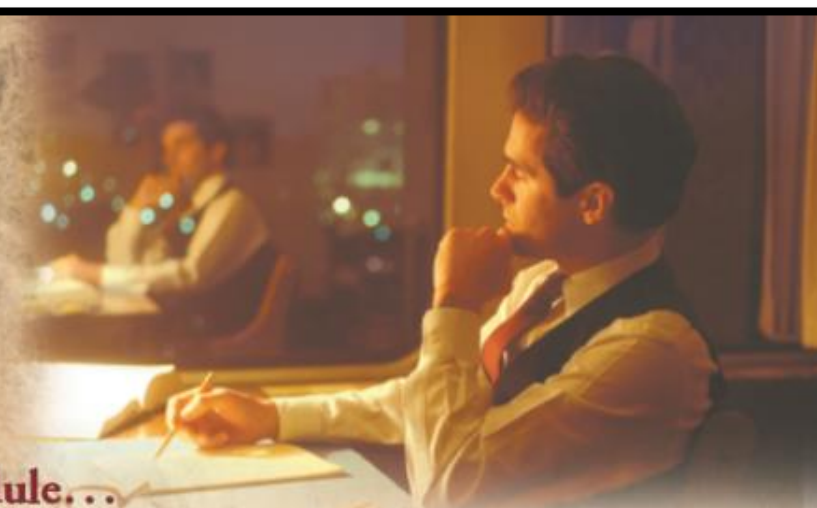


Illustration: Max Singer ('19)



*Think before you write...
learn to write the right way.**



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