



CHAPMAN LAW COURIER

September 2012

Volume 4, Issue 1

What I Wish I Knew as a 1L

A CHAPMAN 2L OFFERS WORDS OF ADVICE TO OUR NEW 1Ls



ALSO

OC Crime is Heating Up
See Page 11

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader, Greetings and salutations. Well here we are again for

another new year of cases, papers, and finals, with perhaps the occasional—and certainly deserved—pit stop at O'Hara's.

To all 1Ls: welcome! By now you will have gotten several solid weeks of school under your belts, and perhaps you can function with a measure of ease. If not, don't worry; you'll get there soon enough. To our 2Ls: hello, and welcome to you, too. In my class, I am quite the homebody, so I am just starting to get to know most of you. Isn't it nice to be out of mandatory

1L classes and those accompanying fellow sessions? Great, well now you still have tons of units to take, and you probably will want to throw in some internship hours as well. Godspeed.

Last, but definitely not least, my dear 3Ls: we meet again. Yes, it feels like only yesterday that we got coffee, lamented the Socratic Method, commiserated over flashcards, got coffee, bragged about outline length, deactivated our facebooks, got coffee, reactivated our facebooks, and then got coffee. Hmm . . . actually, that probably was just yesterday. The days do blur when you function at the speed of law student.

To all: I sincerely wish you a successful year. I hope you find classes you enjoy,

professors who inspire, friends who support you emotionally and walk you to Starbucks, and—dare I say—I hope you also find some time to have fun! I am excited about this new school year, and I am even more excited about the new Courier staff, who are all exceedingly witty and attractive people (you should totally check them out on facebook after you reactivate it!). In this edition of the Courier we have stories and articles about law student life, the upcoming presidential election, Chapman Law happenings, and much more. I hope you enjoy it, and I do hope you have a prosperous start to your year.

Cordially,
Lauren Crecelius
 Editor-In-Chief



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2012 Election: Picking up the Pace

Ryan Anderson
Staff Writer

The 2012 United States presidential election is upon us. The national conventions for both the Republican and Democratic Parties have concluded,



leaving Republican Mitt Romney and his running mate Paul Ryan the opponents of Democratic incumbents President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden.

The Republican National Convention, held in Tampa, FL, from August 27-30, included such notable speakers as Clint Eastwood, John McCain, Sarah Palin, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and, of course, Mitt and Anne Romney and Paul Ryan. The Democratic National Convention, took place September 3-6 in Charlotte, N.C., and also boasted many esteemed speakers, including former

President Bill Clinton, First Lady Michelle Obama, actress Scarlett Johansson, and, naturally, President Obama. The convention also included performances by musicians James Taylor and Mary J. Blige, among others.

In the midst of all of the politicking, it seems apparent that a dichotomy has arisen not

merely between two parties, but between those who are concerned with politics and those who couldn't care less about the subject. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, even TLC's new show *Here*

Moncayo, 1L, said she enjoyed watching Bill Clinton's address at the DNC. "It's interesting that he seems to be such a supporter of Obama," she said, "when last election they were bitter enemies."

There seems to be a general feeling among students on campus that there has been a great and damaging polarization of the candidates and parties in the

“There seems to be a general feeling among students on campus that there has been a great and damaging polarization of the candidates and parties in the U.S.A.”

U.S.A. One student, a 2L who wished to remain anonymous, watched parts of both conventions and was unimpressed by either. "I'm sick of political parties," shared the student, "because I feel like they don't work together, and they blame each other for the country's current situations. I feel as though it inhibits progress rather than promoting diversity of ideas."

Britta Phillips, 2L, is highly interested in the outcome of the election. "My dad is a doctor," she shared. "The healthcare issue is important to my family." Phillips said she had watched both of the conventions, and nothing in particular stood out to her. "I think they are just trying to get supporters," she said, "but aren't focused on the issues. I'm more interested in watching the upcoming debates."

Phillips stated that her mind is made up and she already knows who will get her vote for in November.

However, on a more pragmatic level, explained Phillips, it is important for law students to be concerned with the election, because "with the economy the way it is now—and we are supposed to get jobs in a year—it's important that we are paying attention to [the election]."

Another student, Monica Huie, 1L, said she plans to cast her ballot for Mitt Romney because she distrusts President Obama. "I don't want to vote for Obama," said Huie. "He said he would bring the troops home and he didn't. He lied to me, and I don't want to be lied to again."

Comes Honey Boo Boo (a spin-off of the popular show *Toddlers and Tiaras*) had higher viewer ratings than did the Republic National Convention. According to the *Reporter*, "The half-hour series' showing among adults 18-49 bested all other cable outings for the night—including coverage of the [RNC]." Almost 3 million viewers watched *Boo Boo*. Only 2.07 million watched the Convention.

On the Chapman Law campus, levels of interest in the election, and opinions regarding it, vary greatly. Gaby

Chapman Law Introduces Scholarship Honoring Professor Darmer

Carly Valentine
Staff Writer

The M. Katherine Baird Darmer Memorial Scholarship Fund was recently established in the 2012-2013 school year at the request of Outlaw, one of Chapman Law's student organizations. Outlaw is dedicated to the advancement of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender rights by bringing the legal and political issues affecting the LGBT community to the spotlight. Professor Darmer served as co-advisor to the organization since its revival at Chapman Law in 2008.

According to Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Administration Jayne Kacer, "the members of Outlaw wanted to create a lasting memory to Professor Darmer here at the law school that honored students involved in human rights."

She, Dean Tom Campbell, and Assistant Dean Cary Bowdich worked on the

development of the scholarship.

"The scholarship subsequently was approved by Katherine Darmer's family prior to its announcement," she said.

Professor Darmer passed away on February 17th, 2012. She was an ineffable part of the Chapman Law community and an indispensable component to the local community.

"Professor Darmer was a staunch supporter of rights for the LGBT community be it same-sex marriage, equal employment, or serving openly in the United States Military," Dean Kacer said. "She also engaged in scholarship related to the use of torture in the war on terrorism."



Professor M. Katherine Baird Darmer, above, was a passionate advocate for the LGBT community at Chapman Law. She passed away earlier this year and is remembered by a new scholarship.

Chapman 3L Damon Pitt took Professor Darmer's evidence course in the fall of 2011. He said she taught him to "be judgmental, be destructive, and feel guilty." He said these traits were, in fact, virtues.

"I learned not to make snap judgments or premature judgments, but rather to make an informed decision and stand behind it. I learned to be destructive of bad ideas and habits," Pitt de-

scribed. "Finally, I felt guilty when I wasn't fully prepared for class because I knew it was my loss."

According to the internal scholarship write-up, students interested in using their law degree to promote human rights and

See Darmer, page 6

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What I Wish I knew as a 1L

Advice from a Wise 2L You Really Should Follow

Sam Morgenstern

Staff Writer

As a 2L at Chapman, I would like to share a bit of my infinite wisdom with you new 1Ls. These are things I wish I had known when I was a 1L, but no super nice upperclassman was there to tell me. Read this article during class, during a fit of procrastination, during your power library time, or whenever you can. Hopefully, it will provide a little guidance and some comic relief. In any case, enjoy!

Sam's Pearls of 1L Wisdom:

- You don't actually have to brief every single case. Stop it. Book briefing actually works sometimes.
- You can go to sleep before midnight and not be a slacker.
- Cramming actually works. I know, I got an "A" doing it. Okay, it was an "A-." Cat's outta the bag.
- Don't cram. It sucks. It's stressful, your

mom won't like it if you tell her that's how you're getting through law school, and your advisors will try to scare you out of doing it. You will feel bad and slightly terrified that you'll fail if you do cram.

- Flashcards are your best friends, annoying but helpful friends.
- Stop wearing a suit to class unless you have an interview or a formal event later on that day. You're a student, not an attorney. I know we're all supposed to be "dressing for the job we want" here, but you just look like an idiot. And you must be so uncomfortable sitting in all that synthetic fabric ALL DAY. Don't lie to me. You are.
- Everyone is married, practically married, or taken but still sleazily flirting. Check for rings before you flirt. Check now, check later, and check often. And even after you check, fact-check, because some people don't wear rings.

“Stop wearing a suit to class unless you have an interview or a formal event in class later on that day.”

- Do not sit in a classroom during a break or before class and talk on the phone with anyone. I don't care if your mom is coming to visit today, or if your boyfriend in Montana misses you. We all want to take your phone and dunk it in our cruddy vending machine coffee.
- Compile your outline first before collaborating with others. Everyone works in a different way.
- Try to find an upperclassman's outlines for a professor you will have in the future.
- Start outlining yesterday. No, I'm serious, you should add to your outline on

See **1L Advice**, page 13

Darmer, from page 5

public interest law are encouraged to apply, with “[s]pecial consideration ... given to students who have shown interest in and commitment to issues of gender equality.”

Students interested in applying are required to submit an application, a resume, and a statement about his or her concern for human rights and involvement in public interest causes. According to Dean Kacer, “[s]tudents should watch The WRIT for information as well as the law school's financial aid website, and the bulletin board outside the financial aid office.”

Austin Underhill, a 3L, took Professor Darmer's seminar entitled “Sexual Orientation and the Law.”

“Professor Darmer was more than a professor; she was a mentor,” he opined. “Her achievements were the byproduct of raw passion and intellect, a combination that intimidated her opponents, but inspired her supporters. Her unyielding desire for equality will never be forgotten. She lives on through the enthusiasm she instilled in her students.”

Professor Darmer represented equality in all facets of life, but was especially com-

mitted to the furtherance of gender equality. Her Scholarship presents an opportunity for our Chapman Law community to carry on her legendary enthusiasm and bring it with us into the community-at-large upon graduation.

“Katherine Darmer was a passionate and articulate advocate for sexual orientation equality,” Professor Marisa Cianciarulo reminisced. “The injustice of discrimina-



tion on account of sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity led her to lead rallies, file briefs, and launch the Global Project for LGBTQ Rights & Feminism.

Her extraordinary passion and energy were matched by her extraordinary intellect, making her an ideal advocate for a historically denigrated group of people.”

I also took Professor Darmer's seminar last year. As I wrote this article, I wanted nothing more than to write with conviction and passion to make her proud. I felt like a kid making a crayon drawing for my favorite superhero—a superhero I want to please like a mother, one that I do not want to let down, disappoint or embarrass—a piece I know I can never do justice.

Professor Darmer was an inspiration to all of us. Through this scholarship her legacy will be forever impressed upon our community. We will have an annual reminder that her passions will persevere through the actions of future generations of Chapman Law students.

This Scholarship is an amazing opportunity for students and supporters to honor and contribute to Katherine Darmer's legacy. Anyone interested in learning more about the scholarship, or donating to it, please visit <http://www.chapman.edu/law/support/giving-areas.aspx>.

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Summer Fun for Chapman Law Students

Denise Vatani
Staff Writer

Oh it's that time again: the beaches are empty, the schools are back in session, debts are accruing and we're all stressed out again. The life of a law student is far from fun and exciting, however, some of our lucky colleagues were able to let loose and have a blast over the summer.

Anne Carol Elder, 3L, enjoyed her time with her husband, Jeff Elder, a recent USC Law grad, and other law student friends on a fabulous post-bar trip. They got to soak in the sun in the South Pacific, enjoying their time in both Australia and New Zealand. Elder said she was so grateful and impressed with the incredibly friendly people she met. She was able to hike and explore various cities such as Rotorua and Auckland and enjoyed different foods and beers as well.

Another exciting summer trip was for

“Summer is a time to enjoy all that that this wonderful world has to offer.”

3L Lauren Shaw. Shaw toured the exotic land of Morocco with her best friend on a trip they had planned for years. While in Morocco, Shaw did the famous camel ride excursion in the Sahara Desert and camped on a sand dune overnight. All the while she and her friend enjoyed the rich culture and tasty foods of the Middle East, she said. After Morocco, Shaw travelled to Spain and soaked up the sun on the coast. She was even able to beach hop over to Tarifa then to Granada before heading back home before school started.

Jason Armbruster, 2L, was given

a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity by Chapman University to travel to Africa and help create a documentary. He went to Mozambique as part of Chapman's Destination Africa Documentary Film Program, which is an interdisciplinary program that allows a group of film, law, and humanities students to travel to Africa each summer and make documentary

films about organizations doing important work there. Armbruster said his group made a film about the Gorongosa Restoration Project, a partnership between the government of Mozambique and an American not-for-profit organization to restore Gorongosa National Park, one of Africa's great national parks that was decimated during decades of civil conflict. The Restoration Project has twin goals of preserving and restoring bio-diversity and promoting human development in the region



2L Jason Armbruster's photo of beautiful Alaska.

through eco-tourism. Armbruster said it was an amazingly beautiful place where he was able to meet so many interesting and wonderful people. After returning from Africa, Armbruster then interned with the U.S. Attorney's Office



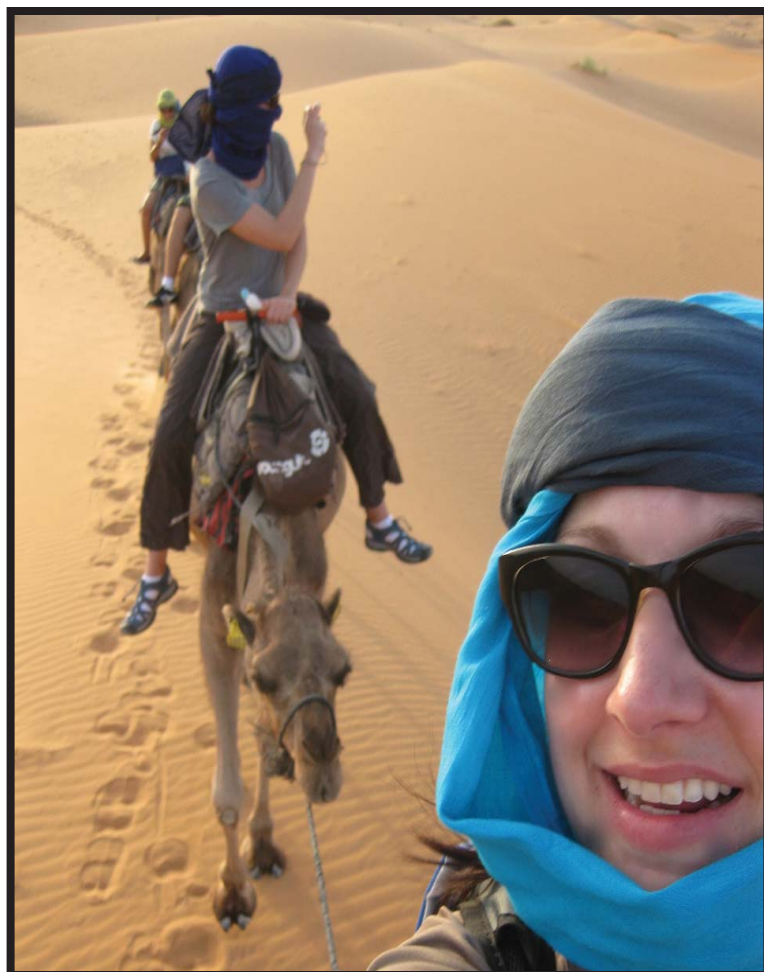
Anne Carol Elder, 3L, her husband, and their friends in Australia.

for the District of Alaska.

He said the internship was a great follow up to his time in Gorongosa National Park since he spent much of his summer helping to prosecute wildlife crimes and protect one of this country's great treasures, Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve. The documentary Jason worked on with other students over the summer will premiere on November 29th in the Folino Theater at Chapman's Film School and the Courier hopes everyone will be able to attend and see the beautiful story Chapman students worked on over the summer.

Just because you're in law school, doesn't mean your life is over, as you know it. Summer is a time to enjoy all that that this wonderful world has to offer. Sure, not everyone can afford extravagant vacations, instead take a cue from some of our classmates and do what you love and that brings happiness to your life.

Denise Vatani, 3L and author of this story, Lauren Crecelius, 3L, and their friends attended a Kelly Clarkson concert at the Hollywood Bowl this summer. Good times can be found close to home as well.



Above, Armbruster captures the African landscape. Left, Lauren Shaw, 3L, rides a camel in the Sahara Desert.

Below, 3Ls Denise Vatani and Lauren Crecelius and their friends enjoy a concert at the Hollywood Bowl.



Thoughts From the Class of 2015

Priscilla George
Staff Writer

Well here we are! After taking the dreaded LSAT, and working our absolute hardest to get into law school, we finally made it! Now the real work, I mean “fun,” begins.

At times, it seems law school is like a horror film.

A maze of hallways and doors, both literally and metaphorically await us. We enter with trepidation, and greatly fear the unknown. Unfortunately, since this is just the beginning of the semester, we don't know anything and we therefore fear everything!

Questions abound and we fear the possible ramifications of not following the crowd. Should I lug all 20 of my books and supplements around like a “normal” person and possibly break my back? Or should I use the dreaded rolling backpack?

Is using seven highlighters to color-code my notes the secret to law school success? How many stickies can I use before going overboard? How many organizations and clubs can I join in order to get free lunches? Is sleep truly necessary?

I had several questions before school even began and it was this concern that propelled me to participate in Chapman's

first summer bootcamp. I took the program along with a handful of 1Ls, and found it to be extremely helpful. Although I will say, it truly felt like a “bootcamp” in that it was a brutally intense five days of long lectures, incredible (at that time) amounts of reading and briefing, and even two “exams!” Generally after every session, I walked out asking myself “what just happened?”

The benefit to this torture? Week One of

actual law school felt way more manageable in comparison. Although, like others, I have already discovered that despite all the studying and reading and briefing and prepping and note taking and reviewing, the correct answer to a professor's

question, maybe just one specific word, undoubtedly remains elusive.

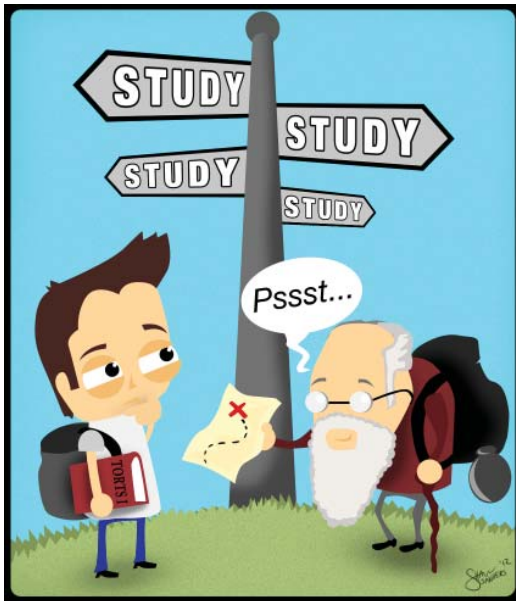
Law school culture absolutely engulfs you from the very first day. You go to sleep counting foxes, dream about being falsely imprisoned in class, wake up with highlighter marks all over your face, study all day and late into the night, and then the cycle begins again! I rarely have a moment to think or do non-law related things, which may be a good thing.

When I try to schedule free time, I no longer enjoy it, but instead, spend every second worrying, wondering if these precious moments I'm “wasting” watching TV, scrapbooking, or taking a nap, might be better spent trying to understand the material I attempted to read four times. Surprisingly, law school doesn't seem too terrible. Granted, I'm writing this only three weeks into the semester, and it's very possible that I'm in denial.

By the way, is it just me, or does it seem like some days, the Socratic Method is absolutely terrifying? As the professor reaches for their roster, you are immediately alert and time seems to stop. Your heart pounds so loud your classmates are about to complain, sweat beads on your forehead, you take in shallow breaths, and try to look anywhere but at the professor, as if that could somehow help. Then, if you're lucky, you hear anyone else's name called and breathe a sigh of relief. Saved this time, but who knows when it's your turn in the hot seat?

Besides continuous Socratic torture,

See Class of 2015, page 11



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Crime Update in Orange County

Blaise Vanderhorst
Staff Writer

Orange County's past summer was an atypical one, not because it lacked plenty of good beach days, but because local news headlines were dominated by instances of violence and civil unrest. Somewhat typical, however, was Anaheim's placement at the top of the list for Orange County cities in producing the negative news content.

The shooting of Manuel Angel Diaz, which some members of the public have questioned, on July 21, 2012, and the ensuing riot that led to the shooting of Joel "Yogi" Acevedo has sparked a number of investigations and requests for reform within the Anaheim Police Department. A police officer shot the 24-year-old Diaz after pursuing him on foot for allegedly pulling a small item from his waistband. Anaheim PD said that he was a known gang member.

The Kelly Thomas killing that occurred on July 10, 2011 and ongoing criminal investigation continued to grind on through the summer. In August Michael Gennaco, president of the Los Angeles Office of Independent Review, gave the Fullerton City Council his final report on his audit of the Fullerton Police Department, according to a City of Fullerton press report. While finding no deliberate cover-up, the report found a culture of "complacency" in the department, and recommended better train-

ing and oversight. Three of the officers accused of beating the mentally-ill, homeless Thomas- Ramos, Cicinelli, and Wolfe-were fired by the department, and Ramos and Cicinelli both face two felony charges each in connection with his death, with Ramos charged with second-degree murder. The report concluded that the three other officers involved in the incident should not be terminated, as their involvement was minor and they arrived on the scene after it was already over.

Anaheim has been facing a recent surge of violent crime after years of decline; statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's website show that last year the city had a 10 percent increase in violent crimes, with 15 murders, a figure more than twice 2010's seven murders. The city has also seen an increase in officer involved shootings: after zero fatal police shootings in 2010 and two in 2011, this year there have been seven officer-involved shootings in the city of Anaheim, five of which have resulted in fatalities. This sets Anaheim apart from the rest of Orange County, where there have been two fatal police shootings thus far.

James Armendaris, Program Manager of Police Reconciliation at the Orange County Human Relations Commission said, "A lot of people [in the country], when they think of Orange County, they think of Disneyland, 'The Happiest Place on Earth,' but for a lot of the people here [in Orange County], it isn't."

The Orange County District Attorney's office will be conducting a special investigation of the incident and the Anaheim City Council voted 5-0 to ask the U.S. Attorney's Office to review the shootings. On July 24, 2012, the Diaz family filed a \$50 million lawsuit in the Orange County Superior Court.

Anaheim Police Association President Kerry Condon, in a press release dated August 3, 2012, said, "I welcome any credible agency to review these shootings. I am confident that the review of any officer-involved shooting handled by the Orange County District Attorney's Office will reveal a complete, thorough and objective investigation."

Chapman Professor Hugh Hewitt, who also hosts a news radio show, said he believes that it was important to withhold judgment on the police officers involved until all official investigations were com-



The City of Anaheim ranks highest among Orange County cities in both crime and police officer-involved shootings.

plete and the litigation, if any, was decided.

"I always await, from my years in journalism, especially covering the Rodney King story, the adjudication of the police officers." Professor Hewitt added that he believes the police department is "handling it well."

Class of 2015, from page 10

law school does seem to have its perks. We are learning in beautiful Orange County, surrounded by fun and interesting people, and we are taught by professors who enjoy their work and are here to help us succeed! In fact, when I emailed one professor, he responded so quickly that his response was quicker than my question! He replied, "Look at the times of our

emails: yours was sent at 6:18pm and I responded at 5:28pm. I thereby seem to have changed the laws of time and physics, and seem to have responded before you even asked your question. Despite these apparently God-like powers, I remain a humble law professor..." (Professor X). It's comforting to know that our professors are genuine and have a sense of humor!

Whatever you do this semester, make sure you stay connected with your classmates. Make friends, join study groups, and share strategies. Just remember, all horror films are the same and things never end well for the one who strays from the group. Stay strong and we will get through this first year together!

My “Holiday in Cambodia”

Stephanie Lee Lincoln
Staff Writer

I went to Cambodia this summer for an internship at Open Society Justice Initiative in Phnom Penh to assist with monitoring the Khmer Rouge Tribunals that were created to prosecute the people most responsible for the crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge. I learned a lot while I was at work, but I also gained valuable lessons outside of work as well. I found that Phnom Penh is a vibrant city full of wonderful people and unique experiences.

I cannot fully describe what it is like to live in Phnom Penh for a few months, but I will try. Mind you, I have found that every single person has a completely different experience when living in Phnom Penh. I do not claim to make any generalizations about every person’s experience in Phnom Penh. Nor do I claim that you will have the same experience if you ever live and work in Phnom Penh. But I truly hope that you do.

Stepping off the plane after a thirteen-hour flight, eight-hour stop over, and a two-hour flight, the only things I had been told about Cambodia were that it would be hot, I would ride a tuk tuk, and I would have to be patient. What I did not know was that it would be ninety degrees Fahrenheit with ninety percent humidity daily, I would eventually ride the back of a motorbike everywhere, and I would have to learn a new level of patience to be patient to the extent

that was required. Although Phnom Penh is a vibrant city with constant construction and people working seven days a week, some things are slower paced and communication styles can be different. All of the Cambodians that I befriended were extremely kindhearted and always had a smile on their face. Many were almost kind to a fault. Sometimes, this would lead to confusion because even if they disagree with you or do not understand what you are saying, many will still agree with you in order to keep the peace. The best reaction I found to situations like this was just to stay patient and laugh it off.

I stayed at a hotel that charged less than fifty percent of my current rent in Orange County. I was greeted by the most charming, lovely, and kind brothers every time I came to my Phnom Penh home. In fact, we would exchange daily English lessons for Cambodian ones so that I could improve my Khmer and they could improve their English. On top of this, the room had maid service included daily, abundant air conditioning, and it had a large window and balcony that faced the vibrant street. The road was filled with vendors selling noodles, fruit, and Vietnamese-style coffee at any given moment. Living there reminded me of how simple pleasures can bring great amounts of happiness.

Although it seemed so much as if happiness surrounded the city, other destinations like the Killing Fields and S21 served as strong re-

mindings of how recently this country was devastated by forced labor, genocide, rape, and torture, among other crimes. It is a disturbing thought to think that lovely people like the ones I met could be required to admit to false allegations of working with the CIA and KGB after days of inhumane torture methods, only to end up in a grave filled with hundreds of other innocent people. Their stories cannot be replicated. Watching movies, however honest they are, does not replicate what it is like to actually visit these places firsthand. Stand within a stupa at the Killing Fields that is filled with 9,000 skulls that were found there; stand atop bones, teeth, and fragments of clothing that still rise to the top of the dirt with every heavy rain; touch the tree that babies’ heads were smashed upon; and you too will understand how important it is to prevent massacres like this from occurring again.

Little did I know that when I was in high school playing “Holiday In Cambodia” by the Dead Kennedys on repeat that I would eventually be in Cambodia working on the same topic that the song was written about – the Khmer Rouge. There is no way to predict where our life goes at times. Working in Cambodia reminded me of this. It also taught me the importance of flexibility, patience, and a sense of humor.

Left: A tuk tuk, one of the main methods of transportation in Cambodia.

Below: Mariyan, the office assistant, and I on my last day at work.

Right: Lunch at Russian Market.

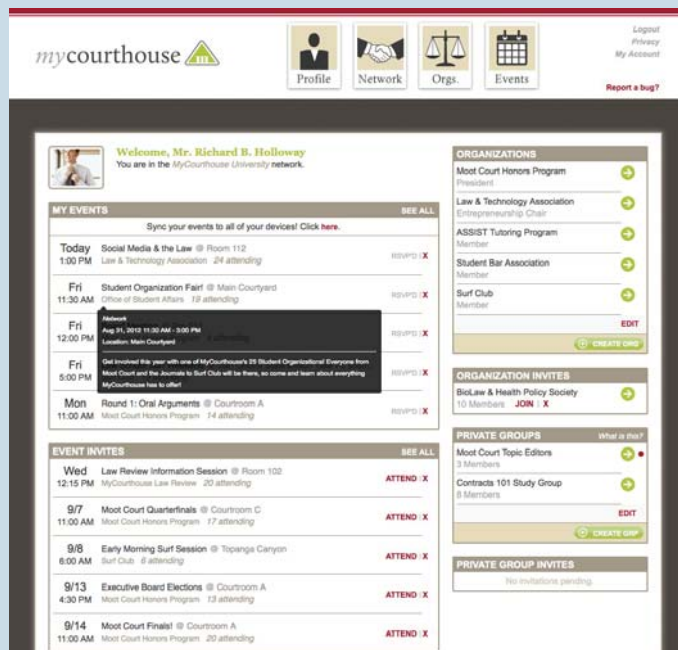


Chapman Law Students First to Use MyCourthouse.com

Malka Barkhordari
Staff Writer

This fall, Chapman became the first law school in the nation to utilize MyCourthouse.com, a unique website specifically designed to help law students keep track of their hectic lives.

“Chapman Law is always looking for way[s] to simplify and maximize the extra-curricular experiences for our students,” explained Ian Jones, Assistant Director of Student & Alumni Services. When balancing class readings, polishing resumes, and still wondering about the decision to go to law school in the first place, the last thing some law students may want to do is figure out how to use a new website. However, Mitch Spierer, Esq., Founder and CEO of MyCourthouse.com, said he understands just that.



Premised on the idea that “less is more,” MyCourthouse was designed to fulfill the law student’s unique needs and life circumstances, Spierer said. In an effort to synthesize the benefits afforded by TWEN, LinkedIn, Facebook, and other similar websites, and leave out the

extra clutter, Spierer created MyCourthouse exclusively for law students and law schools.

Even 1Ls are finding the new site to be manageable.

“I’m new to law school, so I wasn’t aware of the horrors that existed prior to [MyCourthouse],” 1L Shaun Sanders said. “It definitely offers a more streamlined approach to student life in law school versus, say, Blackboard.”

Even better is the fact that MyCourthouse does not force students to log on to the website in order to use its services, Sanders noted.

“I like that MyCourthouse offers various flavors of ‘digests’ via email, which let me make use of the site

without actually having to pay attention to it,” Sanders explained.

Understanding that not all law students will be enthusiastic about having to sign up for another website, Spierer specifically designed MyCourthouse.com to function

See **MyCourthouse**, page 15

1L Advice, from page 6

- a weekly basis.
- Go to the library ONLY if you have headphones or can focus like nobody’s business. People WILL distract you. Whether that is purposeful or not, I don’t know, that all depends on how much you believe in The Paper Chase, but they will.
- Go to office hours and get to know the professors whose classes you enjoy. Professors are cooler than you think.
- Get a locker. Carrying heavy books on your back and running to and from your car (5th floor of the garage, anyone?) is not fun. It cuts down on socializing/reading/snacking/sleeping time between classes.
- Avoid classes on Friday at all costs.

You will need the three-day weekend to sleep, catch up on reading and outlines, and have a life outside of law school.

- Have a life outside of law school. Go to concerts, go to happy hour (when you’re done studying for the day), and take a walk outside and soak up some of that Vitamin D you’ve been missing.
- Keep up with your friends who do not want to be attorneys. Unless they are also in grad school, they are more normal than you are right now. You need some normal in your life.

If you actually listen to me and take my advice, your 1L year will be infinitely better. If you don’t listen to me, don’t say I didn’t warn you. If I see you in the hall and you look stressed, like you haven’t showered and/or slept in three days, or you’re flirting with your “friend” from Civ Pro who is wearing a ring, I WILL say I told you so.

Good luck, and seriously, don’t get behind in the reading. They tell you this all the time, but if and when you do, it’s like “Bangkok has you now.” If you haven’t seen The Hangover 2 and don’t understand this reference, I’m actually going to give you a pat on the back. Final piece of advice: don’t see The Hangover 2. Just YouTube “Allen Town” for a good laugh. You’ll thank me later.

Relationships in Law School and the Inevitable Breakup Cycle

Relationships are hard. Many law students found them impossible to keep alive. Here's one law student's experience and advice, no matter what your current romantic status.

Julia Walde
Staff Writer

Let me preface this article by saying that law school is destructive to every facet of your life, not just your relationships. The advice given in 1L orientation to get out of any relationship that is not “extremely strong” because something like “90 percent” of all romantic relationships will end during law school is alarming. However, this advice had proven to be quite accurate for many of us. A large number of my classmates, including myself, lost their romantic partner during their 1L or 2L year. I understand that this is not true for everyone. In fact, a few of my classmates got married during their 1L year. However, a large portion of law students sadly became part of the statistic.

Nonetheless, if your relationship does end up failing, don't be too hard on yourself. In reality, the stress of law school is tremendous and can cause a huge strain on the relationships we have with our loved ones. Additionally, those law students who are in a relationship with someone who has never been in law school before may have a difficult time explaining what they are going through. Their partner may not be able to understand the time constraints and work load demand. For instance, my boyfriend said to me during my 1L year, “wow, you must be dumber than most people in law school, because no one spends this much time doing homework.”

Support, understanding, and mutual respect are huge when trying to foster a relationship during law school. Thus, if you are dating someone who is un-

portive and who demands a lot of your time, I would be cautious and realistic about the anticipated longevity of the relationship.

I would also like to mention that neglecting your partner completely and not making time for them will almost always result in a breakup. So for all you 1Ls, gunners, and study fanatics I would suggest that you at least create a “date day” every week and stick with it. Law school is part of your life, but it is not your whole life. I have had plenty of students tell me that they lost the man or woman of their dreams because they took them for granted and exploited their understanding and compassionate nature. In other words, it's important to evaluate, at the onset of law school, just how much your partner means to you. Just like law school requires time, fostering a relationship requires time as well.

Nonetheless, not all law students are angels. The law school environment provides all of us with an opportunity to meet many new people and to develop new bonds. Unfortunately, when you spend about eight hours a day with your classmates and less than eight hours a week with your girlfriend or boyfriend, feelings can change. This is especially true for those involved in a long distance relationship. Numerous law students have discovered themselves with a significant other as well as a law school crush. This has led to numerous varieties of infidelity and has been the source of some highly emotional

breakups.

The good news is that as you transition from a 1L to a 3L, your ability to feel a wide range of emotions diminishes, your patience runs thin, and you begin reevaluating your partner instead of them reevaluating you. In other words, you stop worrying about your partner and start worrying about yourself. There are numerous 3Ls who hold onto their boyfriend or girlfriend because it is simply too much of an inconvenience to deal with a break up during their last year of law school. It is especially inconvenient, if you are dating someone in law school, since you constantly see them around campus. Additionally, it is not uncommon for 3Ls to have a “breakup date” in mind, which usually occurs after the bar exam. Along those same lines, 3Ls are beginning their life as a professional and may plan on moving away from California or may get a job in a different state – so breakups, once again, become inevitable.

So in reality law school relationships come full circle: from relationships failing during your 1L year, to relationships having an expiration date at the end of your law school career. For those of you who are able to survive, I say “congratulations!” For those of you who have experienced, or will experience, a breakup during your time in law school, I say “brace yourself, because the blows just keep on coming!”

The good news is that as you transition from a 1L to a 3L, your ability to feel a wide range of emotions diminishes, your patience runs thin, and you begin reevaluating your partner instead of them reevaluating you. In other words, you stop worrying about your partner and start worrying about yourself.

MyCourthouse, from page 13

in a “Lite” version, intended for those who wish to simply interact via email without ever logging into the site. In fact, the idea for MyCourthouse emerged from Spierer’s own dissatisfaction with the existing tools to connect with his former law school colleagues.

“I wanted to put out the word that I started my own practice,” Spierer explained, “only to realize that there was no good way to connect – even with the students that I graduated with.”

The result is a distinct online platform with tools and features customized for the law school experience, Spierer said. On MyCourthouse, users are able to create student groups, upload documents, and create events that allow students to RSVP.

“Having an electronic one-stop shop for advertising student events made a lot of sense to us,” Assistant Director Jones said.

Given busy schedules, and limited attention spans and energy, law students deterred by checking the WRIT (Chapman Law’s weekly school newsletter), Facebook, Twitter, as well as the multitude of flyers around campus will be pleased

with the efficiency of the new site. Streamlining the school’s organizations’ information will help students know when and where the next meeting will be, and most importantly – whether lunch will be provided.

According to Spierer, MyCourthouse is special because it enables law students to consult a single outlet in order to access a multitude of different sources of information, at their own selection.

“Despite it’s ease and simplicity, some students are still hesitant about utilizing MyCourthouse.com.

“I am too far into law school to change what has been working for me,” said 3L Zachary Kramer.

Other students are taking to the new site. According to 2L Ali Bollbach, the transition to MyCourthouse has been a fairly positive experience because “it is extremely user friendly.” Bollbach added, “a downside, however, is definitely this limbo stage,” referring to the fact that professors and some student organizations are still using TWEN and Blackboard.



“There is an awkward, in-between stage of using [MyCourthouse and TWEN] or attempting to convert to MyCourthouse exclusively,” Bollbach described.

Student organization leaders, though, appear optimistic.

Co-President of the Entrepreneurship Law Society Travis Casey, 3L, described, “from the perspective of a student organization leader, MyCourthouse has potential to be a powerful tool for member communication and school-wide advertisement.”

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