

Decisive Utterance

John Marshall Law Student Newspaper for November 2015

Hall of Distinction Has Grand Reopening

By Staff



The Hall of Distinction returned to John Marshall this past fall after having been temporarily removed to accommodate construction and renovations. The hall begins on the 1st Floor corridor connecting the Plymouth Ct. and State St. buildings, and continues through the halls of the classrooms on the 4th Floor.

The Hall is there to recognize graduates who have attained distinction in the legal profession as judges or elected officials. On the first floor you can also find the pictures of members who have served as Presidents of the Alumni Association Board.

A ceremony was held on October 7th to celebrate the reopening of the Hall. Feel free to stop by and check out the accomplishments of previous graduates. John Marshall has a strong alumni network. When networking and job hunting, you will always find a helping hand from a John Marshall graduate. ■

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Drones Don't Do Due Process:

An examination of unilateral police action in the 21st century.

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A BGM167A drone preparing for launch.

U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Mark Fortin

DRONES

The Fourteenth Amendment states that “no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.” We should all take a moment to stop and savor every word in this magnificently terse sentence, not just for reasons of personal self-gain in the legal realm, but for general individual enlightenment, and appreciation of the American Constitution.

Seldom in history have two words in tandem held as much sway as do the words “due process”. It is something the government owes us if it intends to take away our life, liberty, or property, and if it fails to meet this burden, its actions are nullified by the courts.

Due process, however, does not always mean that you get a trial in front of an Article III court. This is as true in criminal matters as it is in administrative procedures. Sometimes, the restrictions imposed by time, limited resources, and public safety, require that the state act before one has the opportunity to be tried by one’s peers. For example, police are authorized to use deadly force on a gunman if he poses an imminent threat to officers or bystanders. By extension, one might argue that the threat posed by certain dissidents, namely members of al-Qaeda, makes it impractical to serve said dissidents with traditional notice (i.e. a summons compelling them to appear at a municipal or federal district court) before meting out justice. The attacks of 9/11 demonstrated that al-Qaeda is willing to employ unprecedentedly barbarous tactics in order to attain its aim of a establishing a caliphate. Therefore, those who are opposed to the use of drones have a moral duty to propose a feasible alternative course of action because it does not suffice to say that drone strikes are “unconstitutional” on account of their unprecedentedness. Since we are engaged in a fight to the death against an unpredictable and deadly enemy, whose influence stretches across the globe, and reaches into some of the most geographically and economically desolate places, the U.S. needs a

weapon that can quickly and discretely enter such regions, while minimizing the likelihood of U.S. military casualties.

Drones are fairly new to the front lines. Hence, requiring the government to rely on historical precedent to justify their usage is unreasonable. Requiring them to cite precedent for the state-sponsored killing of defectors, and committers of treason, however, is not unreasonable. State-sponsored actions of this kind are not particularly hard to find in the history of the Anglosphere. For example, there was the Cold War era execution of Julius and Ethel

Rosenberg, a couple that the U.S. government suspected of carrying out espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. A more salient example, however, can be found in the aftermath of WWII, when the British hanged American citizen William Joyce for high treason. The reason for Joyce’s sentence and execution was that, at the behest of Joseph Goebbels, Joyce had broadcasted Nazi propaganda via radio, encouraging British soldiers to defect and fight under the banner of the swastika. Fast forward nearly seven decades, and we see a similar case with the American-born al-Qaeda af-

filiate, Anwar al-Awlaki, who performed radio broadcasts in Yemen encouraging the murder of innocents in the name of Islam.

Author and Vanity Fair columnist, Christopher Hitchens, wrote two great articles for Slate Magazine on the al-Awlaki affair. One is titled “Citizen Enemies” and the other is titled “Lord Haw Haw and Anwar al-Awlaki.” In those two articles, Hitchens argues that al-Awlaki’s broadcasts were tantamount to incitement and treason, and that the scope of al-Awlaki’s orders to kill were much greater in breadth than Joyce’s ever were. What’s more, Hitchens contends that al-Awlaki walked Major Nidal Hassan of the 2009 Fort Hood Massacre “through all the stages that supposedly qualified [Hassan] to declare lethal holy war on his colleagues.” Thus, in a sense, al-Awlaki surrendered

“The Obama administration has kept the trials of the people on its drone “kill list” wholly clandestine ... “

Advice on Preparing for Finals: An Interview with Eileen Halpin

By: Michael Reed

Eileen Halpin has been helping law students stay ahead of the curve for over a decade. One of her specialties is preparing them to tackle those daunting final exams. Especially the essay sections. I was able to sit down with her earlier this semester to discuss what recommendations she has for students headed into their first round of law school finals, and what lessons they should take forward into their second semester. What follows are excerpts from our conversation, edited for brevity and clarity.

DU: What do you feel is the biggest hurdle for students adjusting to the transition from undergraduate to law school?

Students underestimate how much time it takes to prepare for finals their first year in law school. In order to be well prepared come test time, and later for the bar, you have to give yourself ample time to absorb and analyze the information you are receiving in class. It's important that you not only do the reading every class, but set time aside to review your notes, make outlines, and answer practice questions.

DU: So when would you recommend students begin preparing for their final exams?

The best time to begin budgeting your time in preparation for your final exams are within the first couple of weeks. Lawyering skills classes are demanding but you need to find time for your other classes as well. Begin engaging with the materials in your core classes immediately. Read the cases assign for each class. Do it twice, or even three times if you need to. Then look to the notes sections and do some problems to help cement your understanding.

It is essential that to take the time to type or hand-write

Please see 'Advice' on page 4

Who we are

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his citizenship by aiding and abetting the enemy.

One key distinction between the Joyce and al-Awlaki cases is that Joyce- or "Lord Haw Haw", as Hitchens referred to him- at least had the benefit of a receiving a trial subject to public scrutiny. The Obama administration has kept the trials of the people on its drone "kill list" wholly clandestine, which is (at least from the American vantage point) perhaps the most horrific aspect of this entire ordeal. It makes sense that the U.S. government would not want to tip off its enemies abroad by holding a publicized trial every time it chooses to take one of al-Qaeda's or ISIS's pawns off the chessboard. But if justice was done, why try to cover it up postmortem? Why not make it public record once the deed is done? That way the public can stay apprised as to what its government is up to abroad, and there can hopefully be some accountability, and assurance that the government is in fact learning from its mistakes. I can think of no excuse for the twisted logic and contorted legal arguments the Obama administration has produced when faced with these questions.

Some might argue that al-Awlaki should have been arraigned for his crimes, but seeing as he was hiding in Yemen, and evading even the Yemeni government's call to reveal what business he had in their country, he was clearly outside of the United States' legal jurisdiction. He was not, however, outside its military reach. Thus, my original question to those who oppose al-Awlaki's execution stands: what would you have done different? Should President Obama have sent Special Forces into Yemen in order to apprehend al-Awlaki? Would it have been worth risking the lives of highly trained soldiers, and likely setting off a firestorm of accusations that the U.S. disrespected Yemen's sovereignty by putting boots on the ground and, therefore, "invading" Yemen? And if the answer to the latter question is "yes", does that mean the U.S. must carry out such high risk operations even when the accused is not an American citizen? Finally, if the opponents of al-Awlaki's execution say "no" to both drones and Special Forces extradition ops, does that mean their solution is to just let al-Awlaki and his ilk be? In other words, is their contention that once a purveyor of terror has moved outside the boundaries encompassing law abiding nations the suspect has successfully evaded justice altogether?

If their answer is "yes" to the latter, I hope they sit in as much disrepute with the reader as they do with me. ■

'Advice' continued from page 3

their briefs for each case, especially in the first year. Doing this will help you to break up the information. Students find that when they do this it helps them think in terms of IRAC as well, which is helpful to them in writing briefs for their lawyering skills classes, but also in getting ready for exams. Thinking of case information in terms of the Issue, Rule, Analysis and Conclusion, will not only aid in comprehension of class materials but will help you better organize information in a way that will make sense to your Professor when they grade your exam essay.

It all begins by being prepared for class. Then during class, taking accurate notes and writing down hypos presented by the professor. After class, hopefully within 24 hours when it's freshest in your mind, go back and rewrite your notes by hand and see if they make sense to you. If you find that things aren't lining up like they should, that's the time to reach out. Request a meeting with your professor or go to office hours. Your instructors are valuable assets in our learning process. Often students ignore this resource at their own peril.

When students don't do as well as they thought they would on an exam, they usually tell me that they ran out of time. As I speak with these students about how they prepared for the exam and managed their time through the semester, it never just boils down to what happened in the exam room. The student realizes that they hadn't been using their time wisely throughout the semester. They hadn't been briefing cases and making outlines. They hadn't made time to think out how they would answer essays ahead of the exam. As a result they spent too much time trying to figure how to structure their answer on the exam, instead of just doing it and moving on to the next question. Briefing and practice questions help you structure your answers ahead of time. Outlining helps you learn the substantive material that will be tested on. You need to find the time to do both your first year if you want to do well on your exams.

DU: Why is time management so important to success in law school?

Law school is much different than undergraduate. The classes are more demanding and you have a lot of new information coming at you all at once. Learning how much time it takes for you to accomplish tasks and using your time wisely is therefore essential to success. Briefing, outlining, doing practice questions. The better you get at designating enough time to do these things,

the better your comprehension will be and the more comfortable you will feel headed into the final.

Knowing how much time you need to accomplish certain tasks and understanding how to most efficiently use the time you have at your disposal is just part of getting ready for the exam. You need to be prepared to walk someone through your thought process while you are writing an essay. This is essentially what you are being graded on and every case you read should be preparing you to accomplish this task as efficiently as possible.

DU: Any parting words of advice?

Your first semester of your first year is always going to be the most difficult. You won't feel like you have the time to read the cases. Everything is new and you won't feel like you have the time to digest all the information that comes at you. It's ok to feel overwhelmed, but you have to be persistent. You are learning a new language. The more comfortable you get with the case briefing and terms of art, the whole experience becomes more manageable. You realize how you can better carve out time for class preparation. You want to embrace this time, it is part of the learning process. You are entering a profession that requires you to read cases and digest the law in terms of statutes and precedent. This process begins in law school, and the faster you learn to allocate your time wisely, the easier it will be to succeed.

Sometimes people have the wrong impression when they come to law school. They think that they have all the skills they will need on the first day of class. This isn't true. I tell my students on the first day of class that we are all works in progress. I still believe that to be true. ■

***To arrange for a free initial
consultation with Eileen
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John Marshall Hosts Distinguished Scholar: Deborah E. Lipstadt

By: Staff

On September 24, John Marshall had the honor of playing host to Renowned Jewish Studies Historian, Professor Deborah E. Lipstadt. Her 1996 book, "Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory," which drew her into a libel suit both in the United States and in the United Kingdom. David Irving, who was then a World War II historian, sued her for libel after she labeled him a Holocaust denier in her book. She was ultimately successful in both suits and the proceedings helped to illustrate the continuing relevance of her work.

Holocaust denial continues to be a pernicious cultural phenomena. Whether due to some ideological bias or simple ignorance, denial of Nazi war crimes against the Jewish people take many forms. Lipstadt has identified two key varieties, which she differentiates as hardcore and softcore denial. Hardcore denial tends to take the form of works like Irving's, where historical records are either distorted or the impact of evidence is minimized in order to support an argument that death camps and government sponsored extermination programs either didn't exist or were the product of exaggeration. Softcore, on the other hand, is defined by rhetoric comparing Israeli soldiers to Nazis for their operations in Palestinian Territories. Lipstadt believes that such rhetoric is hurtful and insensitive, and that there is a "difference between criticism of Israeli policies and being anti-Israel."

Among her many appointments and accolades, Lipstadt has served on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, consultant to Congress on combating Holocaust denial, and in 2006 she was elected to the American Academy of Jewish Research. The AAJR is a prestigious organization made up of the most distinguished scholars of Judaic studies in the United States. She captured her experience in defending her scholarship against Irving's accusations of libel in "History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving," which is in the pre-production stage of become a feature film. Her latest book is "The Eichmann Trial" and is available to purchase on Amazon. ■



Professor Deborah E. Lipstadt speaks at John Marshall, Sept. 24.
Photo provided

Exit Pursued By A Bear



By Nick Vogel

Image from Wikimedia.org

In my early 20s I moved to California to pursue a career in the film business. Within 8 months I was homeless, unkempt, disillusioned and deeply embarrassed by failure. By night I drove around the city of Los Angeles, all my possessions packed into my car. By day, I retreated to the mountains of Simi Valley where I had a cozy, shady, private cliff-cave within which I slept. I wore a sign that read: SLEEPING NOT DEAD.

It was around that time I began to read Shakespeare. Deciphering his archaic phrases and visualizing his characters helped me forget the tragic reality that was my life. I have since made a habit of reading Shakespeare during particularly stressful, life-changing events. I read "Othello" during the winter of 2004/2005 when a roommate abandoned me, leaving me unable to pay rent or heating bills. "Hamlet" and I became good friends when I dropped out of graduate school in 2006 and moved to another country on an errant search for love. I read "King Lear" when, in my late 20s, the newspaper for which I worked went out of business, exactly one day after my girlfriend Sonja and I discussed plans for our wedding. I read "A Midsummer's Night Dream" in 2012 when I should have been studying for my first Contracts exam.

Please see 'Bear' on page 8

Deconstructing the

An Analysis of the Republican Elector

By: John Giokaris

As Executive Secretary of the Chicago Young Republicans, you might be surprised to read that I'm not one for much debate when hosting events. I'd rather just briefly discuss any issues or policies we agree on, then move on to sports or movies over some beers.

But as we get closer to the 2016 presidential primaries, the topic over who should be "the face" of the Republican Party inevitably comes up.

Even then, I don't get emotional about it. I'll give my two cents and move on.

But there are some on the hard right who vehemently make the case to me that the reason why Republicans haven't won the White House in recent years is because the party "never nominates a candidate who's conservative enough." Indeed, as the argument always goes, there are allegedly "millions of conservatives who stay home" every general election, just waiting for the "ultimate conservative candidate" to draw them out in droves come November.

After many times of exhaustively trying to get these hardliners to provide their math on these claims, I finally decided to do the research myself.

As you may have read elsewhere, historically it's almost always been the opposite – that is, the lower the voter turnout, the better the Republican Party actually does.

It makes sense when you think about it. Democratic Party promises are inherently populist in nature. "Free healthcare," "free education," "free housing" and so on will always find popularity in many circles (though one of life's greatest contradictions is how many people view politicians as 'crooks and liars,' yet want to believe them when they're promising something 'free'). But as those of us who have any understanding of how economics work, there truly is no such thing as a "free" lunch. The

sheer amount of taxes that would need to be raised to provide for any of these deceptive promises – including tax hikes on the middle class – would be crippling, but I digress.

When it comes to presidential elections since the 1960s, every time voter turnout has reached 60% or higher, the Democratic candidate has won five out of seven times (the exceptions being Richard Nixon in 1968 and George W. Bush in 2004). Conversely, every time voter turnout has fallen below 60%, the Republican candidate has won five out of seven times (the exceptions being Bill Clinton in 1996 and Barack Obama in 2012).

Even during the Ronald Reagan years – whom the hard right often use as the model for their "ultimate conservative candidate" theory – voter turnout was below 60% both times: 55% in 1980 and 57% in 1984.

In midterm election years, the results are even more pronounced. For the last 40 years, midterm election turnout has hovered around 40% and has been measurably lower than presidential election turnout for at least the last 175 years. In those years, Republicans have been very successful in Senate, House, gubernatorial and state legislature races across the country – with the 2006 midterms being the sole exception.

Case in point, the results of the most recent midterm elections last year has now made the Republican Party the strongest it's ever been since the 1920s.

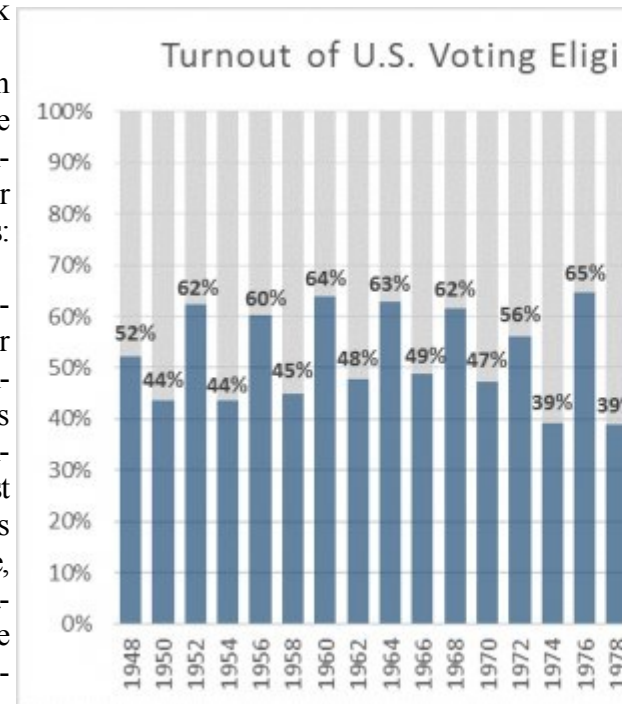
Coincidentally, 2014 also saw the lowest voter turnout in 72 years at 36.3%.

Speaking of the 1920s, which was the last time the GOP had this much power in both Washington, D.C. and the states, 1920 and 1924 marked the

only two presidential election years in the 20th century when voter turnout sank below 50%, resulting in Republicans Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge being elected president, respectively.

So what does this tell us?

For one thing, I'm still having difficulty believing that the GOP's recent White House struggles are due to "millions of conservatives" allegedly staying home – particularly since *primary* voter turnout in recent cycles, where staunch conservatives have the opportunity to cast their votes for the "ultimate conservative candidate," has



hit record lows consistently averaging below 20%. (Source: Bipartisan Policy Library, <http://bipartisanpolicy.org/library/>)

Furthermore, all the available evidence actually suggests the exact opposite: that conservatives are having record voter turnout in presidential elections. Fully 35% of the 2012 electorate self-identified as conservative, a record high since exit polls began asking voters about their political leanings in 1976 and measurably higher since the 29% registered in 2000. In case you're

The Silent Majority:

Electorate and the Need for Greater Diversity

wondering, yes, that even outperformed Reagan's conservative draws in 1980 and 1984 at 28% and 33%, respectively. (Source: Roper Center, <http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/>)

In fact, while presidential voter turnout decreased from 63% in 2008 to 59% in 2012, Mitt Romney earned one million *more* votes and a greater share of the popular vote than John McCain (47% vs. 45%), proving 2012's lower voter turnout was almost exclusively from Obama supporters, *not* conservatives. Even if Romney had tied George W.

Bush noticeably earned almost half (44%) the Latino vote – unheard of for a GOP candidate. The next strongest showing among Latinos was in 1984 when Reagan earned about a third of their vote (34%), but that was when Latinos were only 3% of the American electorate.

Since the 1980s, the non-white vote has more than doubled from 13% of the electorate to 28% today, and that sizeable portion of voters is almost exclusively voting for Democratic candidates over the last decade.

The 2012 election year marked the first time in U.S. history that black voter turnout surpassed white voter turnout, (Source: Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2013/04/29/black-turnout-was-higher-than-white-turnout-in-2012-and-2008/>),

a group that consistently breaks Democratic 9 to 1. The Brookings Institution definitively proved (Source: Brookings Institute, <http://www.brookings.edu>) that 2012 also marked the first time where the non-white vote determined who won the presidential election.

Consider the fact that if Romney had the same demographic electorate of the 1980s as Reagan and George H. W. Bush did when whites made up 87% of all voters vs. 72% today, he would've soundly defeated Obama in 2012 since he won 59% of white voters – outperforming even Reagan's 1980 share of white voters (56%).

Thus, according to the math, the GOP's White House struggles have less to do with “millions of unmotivated conservatives staying home” (of which all the evidence demonstrably contradicts) and more to do with

building inroads and maintaining relationships with non-white voters – particularly the growing Latino population.

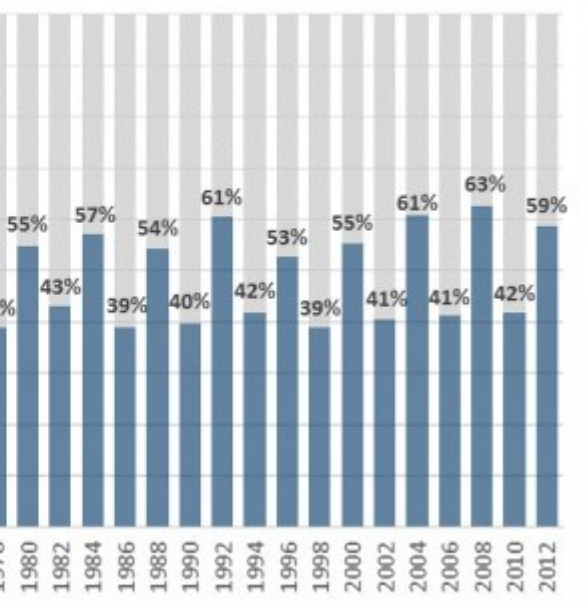
Indeed, something George W. Bush understood coming from a state like Texas, and his brother Jeb understood coming from a state like Florida for that matter, is the importance of reaching out to the Latino communities within their states to win general elections.

Reagan also understood that elections are won by addition, not subtraction. He practiced the politics of inclusion, not exclusion. He took his message of freedom, individual choice and less government to anyone and any group who would listen. He never tried to exclude anyone from his coalition.

Also notice that strategy has nothing to do with compromising or “giving up” on any principles or positions but everything to do with simple messaging and outreach.

Historically, millions of voters staying home has routinely helped Republican candidates, not hurt them. The evidence, however, shows self-identified conservatives now make up a record high portion of the electorate, suggesting the problem isn't lack of hardline conservative voter turnout, but the GOP simply needing to go to new neighborhoods and communities to carry their message and find enough *new* voters to form a winning coalition with in presidential elections. ■

Black Population, 1948-2012



Source: Fairvote.org

Bush's 2004 popular vote total (which was only one million more), it still would've fallen about four million voters short of Obama's 2012 popular vote total. (Source: ProCon.org, <http://2012election.procon.org/>).

Speaking of Bush, it should be noted that the only popular vote a Republican presidential candidate has won since 1988 was in 2004, when

'Bear', continued from page 5

This summer, Sonja (now my wife) gave birth to our third little boy, I took on a full-time internship, an Illinois Civil Procedure course and studied for the MPRE. So I bought tickets to see "A Winter's Tale" performed live.

There is a line in "A Winter's Tale" that is generally considered among the strangest of Shakespeare's prose. According to The Royal Opera House, that line is a single, cryptic stage direction: [Exit, Pursued by a bear].

The Royal Opera's Website does a good job of explaining the stage direction's context, writing, "The character being pursued is Antigonus, a lord of Sicilia, who has been ordered to abandon the baby Princess Perdita. He is interrupted in his cruel errand by the arrival of the bear, an encounter that proves fatal for him – but not for the baby."

The problem with the stage direction is that it exists in the middle of the play. The first half of the play is quite serious and dramatic, while the second half is a kind of silly comedy with an over the top, Disney-like happy ending. So the question exists: How should stage directors portray the scene? Is it funny when a bear chases a man? It is if the bear is an actor in a bear costume. Is it serious? Should it be scary? It *will* be if the bear is portrayed with shadows or dramatic lighting.

Which brings me to the topic of law school.

When I entered law school, I had serious debt from my undergrad and graduate school. That debt, combined with what I've accumulated during my time at John Marshall, is roughly the same amount of money needed to buy a small house in the suburbs or open a coffee shop. As of this writing, I have zero leads on a job. And once I graduate, I will need to pay the money back. The bear begins its pursuit.

Law school has consumed my life for the past three years. It has also transformed my family. My young chil-

dren think it is normal that their father is not at home to kiss them goodnight most nights; my wife and I rarely see each other; any free time I have is spent studying, which means it is difficult for me to help do basic chores like laundry or mop the kitchen floor. My wife has spent the last 3 years leaving work early and rushing home so that I might be able to get to classes on time. I have not held a regular job since quitting my career as a journalist (I bartended for a bit but that did little to help pay the bills).

My point is not that law school is tough. Most reading this have first-hand knowledge of the stress, the occasional embarrassment and the lack of sleep. My point, is that I am finished; mentally and physically. I cannot do it anymore. In December, I will graduate. And after the ceremony I will pick up my oldest son, 4-year-old Bertie, and I will recall the afternoon I built Lego towers while struggling to study for my Torts final. I will try not to think about the crushing debt I have accumulated while I attempted to build a better life for him, myself, and the rest of my family. I'm finished. I'm out of here John Marshall Law School and I'm not afraid of the debt. Let the bear come after me. I'm going to be a lawyer and I worked damn hard for it.

In "A Winter's Tale," Antigonus leaves the baby alone in the woods. The day turns dark and he senses a storm approaching. Feeling his heart bleed for the plight of the baby, he says the following words before being mauled to death by the bear:

"I never saw

The heavens so dim by day. A savage clamour!

Well may I get aboard! This is the chase:

I am gone for ever."

-[Exit, pursued by a bear] ■

THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE LAW CLINIC
PRESENTS

The
BELAW BREW

11.10.15

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2337 S MICHIGAN AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60616

JMLS PROUDLY WELCOMES VETERANS TO ITS NEW VETERANS CENTER

By: Michael Reed

As of this publication, John Marshall is host to approximately 900 students, each with the hopes of entering the legal profession. Of these students, as many as thirty of have identified themselves as veterans or dependents of a veteran.

John Marshall has always been home to veterans looking to go to law school after returning home from service. Many of these students leave to find rewarding roles working in private practice or local government, but many return to our Nation's armed forces as JAG (Judge Advocate General) officers. Among the most notable veterans to graduate from our venerable institution is Louis L. Biro, the 6th floor library's namesake in recognition of his services and tenure as President of the Board of Trustees.

In 2010, John Marshall continued its commitment to serving veterans living in Chicago and Northern Illinois when it purchased the "Taxpayers" building at 19 W. Jackson, and developed the Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic (VLSC) which now occupies the ground floor of the building. The clinic's aim is to provide pro bono legal services to veterans as they attempt to navigate the frustrating bureaucracy of the US Department of Veteran's Affairs in search of disability, education, and medical benefits which they are entitled through their service. VLSC is student run and has received over 8,000 inquiries from veterans across the state looking for the assistance of its trained and capable staff.

To further the interests of veterans within the John Marshall community, a chapter of the Student Veterans of America (SVA) was founded in 2012 by Veterans David Weiss and Aaron Koonce. This chapter has worked tirelessly to ensure that the school remains responsive to the voices of fighting men and women in our midst. In November the SVA will be furthering its mission by opening a new space on campus, exclusively for veterans.

This new space is the VLSC VetCenter and its dedication of this made possible through a grant from the Home Depot Foundation. The Center will be located on the 11th floor of the

law school's historic 304 S. State Street building. The goal of the Center is to provide for Veterans on campus with a space to socialize, study, and connect through their shared experiences of service in order to cope with the tremendous demands of a law school education. The space will only be accessible to veterans who will be able to access it with their student ID cards.

Many find the law school to be a stressful and seem like an unparalleled struggle, especially in the first year student. Everyone needs a support network during these early stages of their law school career. For veterans the most obvious comradery is with others who have volunteered to serve in the Nations defense. Finding allies for academic, emotional, and psychological support is key to surviving law school. John Marshall is committed to making the transition from veteran, to civilian, to esquire as painless as possible and the Center is simply the latest advantage it has to offer veterans interested in the legal profession.

The Center doesn't just serve student veterans though. Any veteran looking for a place to interact with other veterans, find information and resources, get help navigating the procedures of the Veteran's Affairs Office, or who even just needs a quiet place to stop and chill is welcome. In order to gain access to this space, all a veteran need to do is reach out to and be cleared by security. If you know someone who is a veteran who needs help getting the benefits they are entitled to or who simply wants to meet veterans works in the legal profession, feel free to contact Student Veterans of America President, Patricia Liggett for more information. The VLSC is always accepting new clients and comradery abounds in the John Marshall veteran's community. If they can't help them, they'll probably know someone who can.

Vet Center Contract:

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OUTLaw Promotes Inclusive Setting with Gender Neutral Bathrooms

By: Mark Grotto and Sean Varsho

The fight for equality did not end with the Supreme Court's marriage equality ruling in June 2015. It is a relatively unknown fact that the gay rights aspect of the civil rights movement started at the hands of a few proud and courageous transgendered individuals in what became known as the Stonewall Riots in New York City. Without these passionate activists, namely Marsha P. Johnson and Silvia Rivera, the freedom to marry movement would not have been accomplished with such vigor nor would LGBTQ individuals enjoy the many rights they do today. Those individuals who put marriage equality on the map have had to accept compromise in the place of representation while allied activists concentrated their efforts elsewhere. Rather than focus on policies that included protections for all individuals that label themselves as LGBTQ, the conversation has been dominated by the fight to recognize marriage equality. Transgender persons should not have to wait on the sidelines while others reap the rewards of our collective efforts.

As we began our first year as co-presidents of OUTLaw, our main focus was to correct that error. With The John

See 'Bathroom' on page 12

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RESTAURANT REVIEW:

Cochon Volant

By: Andrew Macas

If you're on the corner of Clark and Monroe, you may have seen the Cochon Volant ("flying pig") French restaurant across the street from Exelon Plaza. It's the corner restaurant with several flying pigs adorning its sides. I've been a fan of pigs for a long time, both as animals and as food. Black wooden fences with flower boxes and white tables surround the outside. The dark-tinted glass windows block almost any view of the restaurant from the outside. I always wanted to go there, at least once. Its dark-tinted glass and black metal doors intimidated me, but one day I finally gathered my courage, spun through the revolving door and landed in a world of light.

The woodwork, white walls, and white ceilings were warm and welcoming compared the restaurant's dark exterior. Unlike the outside, light freely flows in from the outside and the outside world is quite visible. The tall ceilings make the place seem more spacious than it actually is. The floor is a mixture of plain and mosaic tile. The metal wire chandelier in the center holds several white lights as if they were Easter eggs. High top long tables, small tables, and two pillars flank the entrance. Black metal branch art runs along the ceiling. Flying pig artwork runs across the top of the bar in the back northwest corner. There's also a full bar in the back.

There was no posted dress code. I sat down to eat and glanced at the other customers. One man had on slacks and a dress shirt with no tie. The heat was stifling, so I followed suit, took off my own tie, and stuffed it in my bag. Another man wore beige cargo shorts and a green short-sleeved polo. My waiter wore a denim apron with individual pen pockets in the left breast pocket. Even with my dress shirt and suspenders, I was not the most casually-dressed guy there.

I ordered mussels, a type of shellfish, in a mildly spicy red soup with fries, sour cream, and two thick half-slices of bread (\$19.95). Pulling the mussels from the shells requires both dexterity and caution; too much force will send soup flying. It reminded me of a sunken treasure hunt, with each mussel being the treasure inside. I repeated this process about 18 times for 18 mussels. Every mussel tasted like a miniature victory in my mouth; the victory of man over seafood; nevermind that someone else caught and prepared them for me. They tasted even better when mixed with the sour cream. The fries, which came out in a metal bucket lined with fake newspaper, were crisp and barely greasy. The thick bread was fresh and did a great job of mopping up the sweet and mild soup.

At the end of the meal, I sat there next to my bowl full of empty shells and felt satisfied. My service was good, but a little slow. Then again, I did come in at about 2:15, the end of their lunch shift. Cochon Volant is a lot less scary than it looks from the outside. In retrospect, a restaurant with gold-outlined flying pigs painted on the outside shouldn't have been scary at all. ■

MORE INFO:

- Up-to-date breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus are available on the Cochon Volant's site: www.cochonvolantchicago.com.
- 100 W Monroe Street
- (312) 754-6560

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- Come join the VGLS for a night of video games to win prizes and humiliate your friends!!
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- Come Early to sign-up and play in tournaments (\$5 per entrance), or just come hang out and play some games.
- Join us afterwards for a fundraiser at Headquarters Beercade.

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Faith and Reason:

A Reflection on Christianity and the Practice of Law

By Charlie Green

Being a Christian, I frequently contemplate how to integrate my faith with the practice of law. Eventually, I concluded that the real issue is integrating the practice of law with being a Christian. It could not be any other way. Being a Christian is not something that I compartmentalize or turn on and off depending on my environment. Rather, as a Christian believer, I have a framework from which to approach life, and I use it wherever I go, be it taking my kids to school or working for a law firm.

Before I talk about this framework, I need to give a quick synopsis of what it means to be a Christian. I believe in Jesus' death by crucifixion at the hands of the Romans. I believe that three days later he returned to life, breaking the chains of death and sin. Through the gift of his sacrifice, I find grace even when I falter. It is for this reason that I put my trust in God and follow His plan for my life.

As a Christian law student, I see God working through me in several areas. My faith gives me a framework to deal with the stresses of life, such as taking a law school exam or going to an interview. Instead of wasting energy stressing out about something I have no power to change, I give those situations to God in prayer. God gives me peace to deal with those situations, and I put my faith in Him to work out the intricacies. Of course, I still study (like crazy!) but ultimately, I know God is in control.

Another area where I see God working relates to my talents as a future lawyer. God blessed me with a set of skills, and He allows me to use those skills to analyze a complex legal problems. I use my engineering abilities and my legal training to discern the unique components of cutting-edge technology and weave those items into a patent. My talents and abilities come from God, and I seek to use these skills in my calling to be a patent attorney (after I pass the bar).

God gave me certain gifts and talents through which I realize his plan for me. You may be called to serve God in a different way. God uses these gifts to shape and mold me as I discover my identity as someone made by Him.

A third area pertains to my response to ethical dilemmas and to everyday life experiences. I seek to approach these situations in a way consistent with my beliefs as a Christian. When faced with difficult choices, I think to myself, "What would God want me to do in this situation?" I do not have all the answers, but I know that God does. In humility, I strive to honor God and live my life in a way that points others to something greater than themselves. I know I fall short of this goal, but hopefully others look past my shortcomings and do not see me as a stumbling block. Rather, I hope my lasting legacy here at John Marshall is one that enables others to connect with God. ■

Meme Mayhem: On the Consequences of Becoming a Meme

By Michael Reed

Whether you see memes as vibrant forms of visual expression or as a popular trend that has long overstayed its welcome, memes are an unavoidable part of our online experience. The term "meme" owes its origins to the work of evolutionary biologist, Richard Dawkins, who coined the term to describe a self-replicating unit of cultural information. In the present context of internet memes, the term refers to the alteration of an image or idea by a web-user

which gives it a new context or meaning. Memes usually take the form of the image of a person or animal with bold text superimposed on top setting up a joke and delivering a punchline. They are often reproduced in the comment sections of social media as a way of amplifying the reactions or moods of users, and typically owe their origins to the cesspools of a Reddit sub-forum.

While memes can be amusing or useful in

communicating ideas, they are in fact using the images of real people who may not approve of the ideas which have been projected on their image. These people typically have no power over what text is applied to their image and the anonymity of the internet can help shield those who have reproduced it from accountability.

The effects of having an image appropriated into a meme can either jump-start a career in the enter-

See 'meme' next page

'Meme' from page 11

tainment industry or cause someone to become subject to ostracization and ridicule. It can get especially strange and nightmarish when web-users project their own anger or bigotry on to these images.

The image in the meme known as "Scumbag Steve" was lifted from the cover of the first rap EP of the man depicted in the image. The proliferation of this image became unstoppable once it was posted to a Reddit forum and it ultimately destroyed the young man's music career. The image known as "Success Kid" of a little boy raising his fist and pursing his lips and the picture of the young wide-eyed women from the "Attached Girlfriend" memes have fared better: the boy's mother has mostly managed to shelter her son from the impact of the meme, and Attached Girlfriend has turned the success of her meme into a successful youtube channel. However, their stories still raise the same questions. How do you deal with the sudden influx of attention that

can result from the appreciation of your image?

The answer is not an easy one. The law in particular is ill-adapted to deal with these types of scenarios. Most of the time the appropriation and transformation of an image is permissible under the First Amendment's Free Speech clause and defensible on Fair Use grounds. The anonymity of the internet poses other issues. If you don't know who to sue, then the court will be unable to provide you with a remedy. It's much easier to hold others accountable for the manipulating and distributing of your image if you were not the person who initially made the images available online. The infamous "Star Wars Kid" suits are exemplary of this fact, as the boy's parents were able to force a settlement out of the parents of the children who uploaded a video of their son pretending to fight with a light saber to the internet without his knowledge, causing him to be subject to ridicule. In almost all other scenarios, the other party is either anonymous or protected by free

speech rights.

The European Union has instituted a novel solution to this problem with its Right to be Forgotten policy. The rule allows users to ask search engines to de-index images and websites they believe are irrelevant or portray them in a false light. The EU is working with Google to implement this rule globally. But even this is not a complete solution. Just because it is more difficult to find an image of yourself on the internet, does not mean the image has disappeared. More importantly, it doesn't stop people from projecting their own issues and biases on top of your image. As a Brooklyn performance artist, who was the target of harassment by cultural conservatives after a video of one of her provocative performances went viral, lamented to Vice Media, "anonymity is powerful." This is true for both the person in the image, as well as those who might manipulate it and distribute it against their will. ■

'Bathroom' from page 9

Marshall Law School recently being named one of only eight LGBT friendly law schools by the ABA, OUTLaw is committed to promote an atmosphere of inclusiveness and friendliness to all individuals through our mission statement: bringing together students within both the JMLS student body and the greater Chicago area in the bounds of fellowship, scholarship, and community. We hope to strengthen those students within our group to achieve a higher level of success academically and personally while ensuring that they are treated fairly as an LGBTQ student. In the prior years, we have hosted events that followed the road to the marriage decision and also specific instances of discrimination against homosexual professionals in the workplace. However, this year we knew we needed more focus on our Transgender and Queer individuals to truly be an inclusive group. Installing all gender restroom signs was an obvious agenda that will no doubt help us in achieving this continued objective. All gender restrooms, while perhaps unimportant to most, is a little gesture that shows the big commitment JMLS has to its LGBTQ students.

Before the 2014-2015 school year began we met with Troy Riddle, who is the Director of Diversity Affairs and Outreach. We expressed our desire to install all gender restroom signs in order to show our commitment to diversity within The John Marshall Law School. Immediately, Troy was excited to assist us in achieving our goal and directed us to Dean Niedwiecki. Having realized the importance of having all gender restroom signs, Dean Niedwiecki

entrusted us to find restroom signs while he recruited support and discussed the suggested changes with the proper individuals at The John Marshall Law School. It was later determined that the school was willing to modify four handicap restrooms to both handicap and all gender restrooms.

After locating several businesses that manufacture signage, we discovered MyDoorSigns.com. The company was particularly appealing to us because MyDoorSigns.com shares OUTLaw's belief of inclusiveness and was offering gender-neutral signs to college campuses at no charge. We contacted the company and our request for signage was happily granted. OUTLaw then coordinated with the property manager of The John Marshall Law School to install the all gender restroom signs in the previously approved locations: one restroom in 19 W. Jackson, one in 315 S. Plymouth, and two in 304 S. State.

The fight for a genderless restroom, luckily and unsurprisingly, was no fight at all. The idea was welcomed with open arms and excited with deliberate speed from the faculty. However, this was not consistent amongst all the student body. Questions of 'why' and 'who really cares' could be heard from some, but this only goes to the point of its need; just because some students do not see a need does not mean the need does not exist. Though this project may have helped many at our school, or as little as one individual, its continued presence at The John Marshall Law School will help the campus be more inclusive for generations to come. ■