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The Docket

Law School Newsletters

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## The Docket (January 16, 2009)

William & Mary Law School

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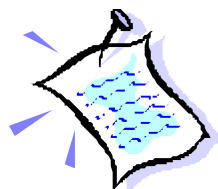
# The Docket

Volume 24, Edition 9

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## NEWSWORTHY NEWS



**CONGRATULATIONS** to 3Ls – Stephanie Lassiter and Paige Corbly – both of whom were married over the holiday break. You can find Stephanie's hanging file now under the name Stephanie Morales and Paige's under her new married name, Paige Buffington.

The Bone Marrow Drive will be hosting its Annual Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament on Saturday, January 17, 2009. Last year we had some undergraduate faculty members attend, so we figured we'd see if some of the law school faculty would like to play in the tournament this year as well.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

All are welcome at the **Wrightslaw Conference on Special Education Law and Advocacy Training** at the W&M Sadler Center on Friday, January 30, from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Presenters are Peter Wright and Pamela Darr Wright. Registration fees benefit the Law School's new Parents Engaged for Learning Equality (PELE) Special Education Advocacy program. Stop by the Legal Skills office to pick up a brochure or visit [www.wrightslaw.com/speak/09.01.va.htm](http://www.wrightslaw.com/speak/09.01.va.htm) for more info. Sponsored by the Law School, the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, the Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia, and the Peninsula Autism Society. 6 CLE credits and 6 CEU credits are available for attendees of the conference.

## NEED TO KNOW

**VIRGINIA BAR UPDATE** - The Application for the Virginia Bar Examination and the Applicant's Character and Fitness Questionnaire are available online through the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners web site at: <http://www.vbbe.state.va.us/forms.html> Students who expect to sit for the Virginia Bar Examination can file the Character and Fitness Questionnaire within the first 14 months of their law school career for a discounted rate. The Bar Application itself cannot be filed more than three months prior to sitting for the exam.

Those planning to sit for the Virginia Bar are forewarned that the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners requires applicants to take the Multi-state Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE). The MPRE is a fifty question, two-hour, multiple-choice examination administered three times each year. You can register online at <http://www.ncbex.org/tests/mpre/mpre.htm>. **GOOD LUCK!!!**

**UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS** - Students can print their unofficial transcripts from Banner Self Service. Please review the information for accuracy and immediately bring discrepancies to Dean Jackson's attention.

The Law School is again offering **LEGAL TECHNOLOGY SUMMER SCHOOL** from May 26 through June 26, 2009. Dates are set to allow students to also attend the Spain program. Courses offered are: Electronic Discovery and Data Seizures, Evidence, Internet Law, Privacy in a Technological Age, and Technology Augmented Trial Advocacy. Tuition for one or two classes is \$3,250. For more information, please see the Center for Legal and Court Technology in Room 211C, or visit our website at [www.legaltechcenter.net](http://www.legaltechcenter.net) and download an application.

## **ADMISSION**

**FINANCIAL AID** - Individual appointments are available for questions on financial aid, FAFSA preparation, lender options, lender terms, loan applications, bar loans, loan consolidation issues, loan repayment and tax-related matters. Appointments may be scheduled with Jennifer Meier, Assistant Director for Student Loans and Graduate Aid, for individual meetings at the Law School on the following afternoons: January 21, February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18 and April 1, 15 & 29. Please stop by the Admission Office (rooms 104 & 105) to sign-up in advance for available appointment times. You may contact the Office of Student Financial Aid, 218 Blow Memorial Hall (221-2426) to schedule appointments on other days.

**FINANCIAL AID FOR THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR** - Information regarding financial aid for the 2009-2010 academic year was sent to all 1Ls and 2Ls via email from Faye Shealy on January 8, 2009. If you did not receive this important information or could not open the attachment, please contact Dean Shealy. The FAFSA is required for need-based financial aid and all education loans. March 1 is the deadline for returning students to file the FAFSA located at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). William & Mary's Title IV Federal School Code is 003705. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Law school financial aid is awarded and packaged based on residency status for each student. Aid initially awarded to out-of-state students reclassified as in-state students must go through the re-award process. Students are responsible for notifying Dean Faye Shealy if they apply for and obtain in-state status for the coming academic year.

**HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES** - The Admission Office would appreciate hearing from students/staff/faculty who know of apartments and other housing opportunities that will be available for the coming academic year. If you are moving from a desirable location or looking for roommates next year, please email the particulars to [lawadm@wm.edu](mailto:lawadm@wm.edu). The information will be disbursed to new admits seeking housing in Williamsburg. Spread the word to contacts in **the community with affordable real estate options for students. Thanks for your help!**

**OLIVER HILL SCHOLARSHIP** – The Oliver Hill Scholarship is awarded to a student who is committed to the objectives, goals, and principles of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) at William & Mary Law School. The recipient must demonstrate a

commitment to personal excellence, social justice, and advancing and protecting civil rights of all citizens. Students in good standing at the Law School, who demonstrate financial need, exhibit leadership abilities in the Law School or the community and display a record of public or community service are eligible. Interested students must apply for the scholarship by submitting two copies of the following to the Dean's Office by February 27: resume, statement (no more than one double-spaced page) that describes how the student meets the criteria and an essay (no more than two double-spaced pages) on the topic "How Oliver Hill's achievements have had an impact on my life? Please be sure to submit all materials by **February 27, 2009**.

## **FINANCIAL AID / SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

***IL Diversity Scholarship*** – Harter Secrest & Emery LLP is offering two first year law students a \$7,500 diversity scholarship to be applied to the student's second year tuition and a paid 10-week summer associate position between the student's first and second year of law school. One of the associate positions will be in their Rochester, NY office and the second will be in their Buffalo, NY office. The application deadline is Friday January 23, 2009. For more information and an application stop by the admission office.

***Vinson & Elkins Diversity Fellowship*** is offering four \$7,000 fellowships to law students who anticipate graduating in 2011 and joint degree students who will receive their degrees in 2012. In addition, the Diversity Fellows will be considered for their summer associate program in the Austin, Dallas or Houston office during the summer following the recipients' first year of law school. The application deadline is January 31, 2009. For more information, visit [www.velaw.com/uploadedFiles/VEsite/Careers/2008-2009DiversityFellowshipApplication.pdf](http://www.velaw.com/uploadedFiles/VEsite/Careers/2008-2009DiversityFellowshipApplication.pdf).

The ***Finnegan Diversity Scholarship*** offers a \$15,000 award to qualified first-year minority law students who have demonstrated a commitment to pursuing a career in IP law. The award recipient will also accept an offer to join the firm as a summer associate in one of their domestic offices (Atlanta, Cambridge, Palo Alto, Reston or Washington). The deadline for applications is February 27, 2009. For more information and an application visit [www.finnegan.com](http://www.finnegan.com).

***The Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA) Scholarship Award*** offers \$2,000 scholarships to Latino students currently enrolled as first or second year students in a JD program at an ABA approved law school in the United States. PRBA selects recipients based on financial need and academic promise. For more information and an application please stop by the Admission Office. The deadline to submit your application is February 28, 2009.

***Porzio, Bromberg & Newman \$5,000 Diversity Scholarship*** is open to first-year law students, who are both U.S. and New Jersey residents and have received a minimum of a 3.3 GPA at his/her undergraduate institution. The application deadline is February 28, 2009. For more information and an application, please stop by the Admission Office.

## **OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

OCS is pleased to welcome **Julie Waskey** as the new Career Services Coordinator. Having recently moved to the Hampton Roads area, Julie previously worked as the Catering Sales Coordinator and Human Resources Assistant at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston for several years. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from York College of Pennsylvania and lives in Yorktown with her husband, Chris and their chocolate lab, Molly.

**Web Site of the Week** - Welcome back! Before you get too wrapped up in the semester, we thought you might have time for something on the lighter side. **Lawhaha.com** is produced by Andrew McClurg, a law professor who also wrote a monthly humor column for the *ABA Journal* for more than four years. He says the site is “designed to be an interactive humor network for legal types of all stripes: law students, lawyers, law profs, judges, legal secretaries, prison inmates, recidivist parking meter violators – just about anyone with a computer, basically.” Readers are asked to contribute entries for sections such as “Funniest Law School Moments” and “Weird Legal News.” [www.lawhaha.com](http://www.lawhaha.com).

**Job of the Week** - **First- and second-year law students** are eligible to apply for a summer fellowship program sponsored by the **ABA Section on Antitrust Law and named the Janet D. Steiger Fellowship Project**, honoring the memory of the late Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission. Each selected student will receive a \$5,000 stipend and serve in the consumer protection department of one of the 20 participating State Attorneys General during the summer of 2009. The program also offers a discretionary supplemental housing/travel allowance of up to \$2,000 for those students who are not living at home for the summer. The deadline for submitting an application is **Friday, January 30, 2009**. For a list of participating Attorneys General, the application form and other details on how to apply, go to <http://www.abanet.org/antitrust/at-law-student/at-js-project.shtml>.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1Ls Participating in the Mock Interview Program** – Just a reminder that you need to upload a copy of your resume into Symplicity by midnight, January 20. (You must have preregistered to participate.)

Registration is open for the **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Rebellious Lawyering Conference** on **February 20-22, 2009** at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. This year’s featured keynote speakers include Van Jones, founding president of **Green For All** and a senior fellow with the Center for American Progress; and Stephen Bright the president and senior counsel at the **Southern Center for Human Rights**. For descriptions of the panels that will be offered and registration information, go to <http://islandia.law.yale.edu/reblaw>.

**Attention 3Ls: Bright Spot in a Tough Job Market: Hiring Accelerates in the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development** In the last several months, new funding has been allocated to both the State Department and the Agency for International Development after several years of minimal hiring. The State Department has asked for funding for 1,500 new positions for the current fiscal year. Of these roughly 800 are Foreign Service and 700 civil service positions. For job listings for the State Department go to [www.careers.state.gov](http://www.careers.state.gov); for USAID, go to [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov).

Each year, William & Mary students are invited to participate in a variety of career and employment related events around the country. The Office of Career Services forwards information about these programs to all students. All students are welcome to participate.

The **Boston Lawyers Group** invites students interested in the Boston legal market to attend the **Washington DC Career Conference** to be held on **Wednesday, February 11, 2009**. The BLG is a consortium of over 40 large law firms, government agencies and corporations in Boston whose mission is to support the efforts of its members to identify, recruit, advance and retain attorneys of color. The conference is an opportunity for students to network with employers from many of Boston's top employers. For more information and registration details, go to the BLG Web site at [www.thebostonlayersgroup.com](http://www.thebostonlayersgroup.com) or OCS Resources for Students in Blackboard (Off-Campus Interview Programs section). The **registration deadline is Friday, January 30**.

## WRITING COMPETITIONS

**Note:** Throughout the academic year we receive announcements regarding essay competitions and invitations to submit papers for publication in law reviews and journals. This information is posted on the bulletin board in OCS, as well as in OCS Resources for Students in Blackboard under Writing Competitions. In addition to the intellectual and often monetary benefits of these contests, the competitions are another way for you to demonstrate your legal writing abilities to prospective employers. Because they are often sponsored by bar associations and other professional groups, they also provide excellent networking opportunities. Keep in mind that faculty members are a good source of ideas and guidance.

The Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability of the American Bar Association has announced the **2009 Bert W. Levit Essay Contest**. The LPL Committee sponsors the contest annually to generate interest and ideas among law students and young lawyers on the topics of interest in the area of lawyers' professional liability. The winner of the essay contest will be awarded a prize of \$5000 as well as a complimentary trip to the National Legal Malpractice Conference in Miami, Florida in April 2009. The **postmark deadline for submission on entries is February 20, 2009**. Students interested in submitting an entry must enroll as members of the ABA no later than February 15. To enroll, go to [www.abanet.org/join/lpd\\_enroll/lpd\\_enroll.cfm](http://www.abanet.org/join/lpd_enroll/lpd_enroll.cfm) or call 800-285-2221.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Haven't a clue about what you would like to do with your law degree once you graduate? Confused about all the options out there? Come to **Career Choices: Deciding Your Legal Career Path** on **Wednesday, January 21 at 12:50-1:50 p.m. in Room 133**. Bring your lunch and OCS will provide cookies....and some helpful hints on how to zone in on the right career path for you.

**OCS Express:** Got a quick question about your job search? Want help finding the perfect opening for your cover letter? Want to see some of the latest job search resources? On **Monday, January 26, from 12:30-2:00 p.m.** OCS staff will be on hand in the lobby to answer students' questions about any job search topic. Feel free to stop by the table on your way to or from class.

**Finding and Funding Summer Public Service Internships: Tuesday, January 20, Room 120, 1:00-1:50 p.m.**

**Interview Skills Refresher: Monday, January 26, Room 124, 1:00-1:50 p.m.**

**For ILs: Reception sponsored by Williams Mullen, Thursday, January 27, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Lobby**

## **NEW RESOURCES IN THE OCS LIBRARY**

***So You Want To Be a Big Time Lawyer: Insiders Guide: Getting into and Surviving at a Major Law Firm***, by Solan Schwab, Esq., Lynx Media, Inc., 2004

***Nonprofit Sector Yellow Book***, Summer 2008, Leadership Directories, Inc. Who's who in the management of the leading foundations, universities, museums, and other nonprofit organizations.

***Careers in National Security Law***, American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security, Lauren Bean, Editor, 2008.

***The 2007-2008 Sports Lawyers Association Membership Directory***, Sports Lawyers Association, 2007.

***Educating Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law***, William M. Sullivan, Anne Colby, Judith Welch Wegner, Lloyd Bond, Lee S. Shulman, Jossey-Bass, 2007; *Educating Lawyers* offers a set of recommendations for improving the professional education of lawyers.

***View from the Top: Q&A With Legal Women Leaders***, Vault Editors, Vault Career Library, 2006 Law firm women leaders discuss the key elements of a successful legal career.

**Applying for a Government or Public Interest Summer Job?** Funding available through William & Mary may help you get that job! There are several **Fellowship Programs** which provide stipends of up to \$3,600 for students who secure summer internships with employers who are unable to provide funding or can only provide partial funding. The availability of funds through William & Mary enhances your candidacy with employers. There is a one-page handout available on the display racks in OCS that describes William & Mary's various Fellowship Programs for the summer of 2009. Please feel free to include this flier with your resumes and cover letters to government and public service employers. In your cover letter, you may want to indicate that "William & Mary has several public interest [or government] summer funding sources, as detailed on the enclosed sheet." The application process for these fellowships is very competitive, and you must have a written offer of employment in order to apply for funding. If you are interested, please pick up an application form from the display rack in OCS. The application deadline is **Friday, March 27, 2009.**

## OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS

### Class of 2009

You are Invited to Celebrate with your fellow Classmates  
100 Nights Until Graduation on  
Friday, January 30th  
7:00-11:00 p.m.  
at Yorktown Freight Shed  
Eat, Drink & Be Merry  
for soon you will graduate!!

R.S.V.P. to Kathy Pond by January 23rd  
[ktpond@wm.edu](mailto:ktpond@wm.edu)

Transportation has been arranged ... buses will leave the law school beginning at 6:15 P.M. and will return everyone back to the law school safe and sound!! Directions to Yorktown Freight Shed: <http://www.yorkcounty.gov/tourism/directions.htm>

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*The Docket* is a biweekly publication of the William & Mary Law School produced during the academic year. All submissions (in either Microsoft Word or WordPerfect) are due to Cassi Fritzius, (Room 108) or by E-mail ([cbfrit@wm.edu](mailto:cbfrit@wm.edu)) no later than 5:00 p.m. the Wednesday prior to the Friday publication date.

#### 2009 publication schedule

January 16, 30; February 13, 27; March 13, 27; April 10, 24

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