Coastal Mock Trial Team Preps For Tryouts

MOLLY TANDY CONTRIBUTOR

Coastal’s Mock Trial Team is gearing up to host try-outs in March. The Mock Trial Team has a new Executive Board this year, and is looking for new members to fill the positions left open by graduating seniors. The Mock Trial Team is an opportunity for students to develop legal research, writing, and oral advocacy skills and to gain outside exposure to law firms, companies, and other potential employers.

The Mock Trial Team meets twice a week, first to work on their written case and the second to practice their oral arguments. In addition to these meetings, team members work independently on their cases and are often required to register for other competitions. The Mock Trial Team has been one of the most successful teams on the Coastal campus, and has placed in many national competitions.

The Mock Trial Team is one of Coastal’s most prestigious programs, and is a great opportunity for students to gain valuable experience and build their resumes. If you are interested in joining the Mock Trial Team, please contact Molly Tandy at MoTandy@fcsl.edu for more information.

Morgan Montano

President Obama Signs First Law

On January 29, 2009, President Barack Obama enacted his first bill into law. This piece of legislation, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, expands the time frame in which workers can file suit for discrimination they’ve encountered based on gender, race, ethnicity, or religious affiliation. Workers now have up to six months to file suit from the date they receive a paycheck believed to be discriminatory.

Lilly Ledbetter, a supervisor at a Goodyear tire plant in Alabama, was a supervisor at a Goodyear tire plant in Alabama. Upon her retirement, she learned that her salary was lower than any man in her position. Although the figures may seem insignificant, the disparity is great when accumulated over her nineteen-year career with the company. Ledbetter alleged that she was treated differently during her time in the life of a 1L, but the opportunity is too great to miss. This allows careers to be put on a higher trajectory.”

The best way to gain the skills necessary to secure your future is through earning a place on the Honor Board. The opportunity is too great to miss. This allows careers to be put on a higher trajectory.”

As an example, President Obama Signs First Law. The writing sample is similar to what would be submitted to a potential employer. Current members of the Honor Board are the faculty advisor, Professor Moody, and the faculty advisor, Professor Moody.

The benefits to participating in Moot Court are endless. Legal employers look for candidates who have the total package and some employers will only interview students with Moot Court or Law Review experience. The best way to gain the skills necessary to secure your future is through earning a place on the Honor Board. The opportunity is too great to miss. This allows careers to be put on a higher trajectory.”

If you are interested in joining the Mock Trial Team, please contact Molly Tandy at MoTandy@fcsl.edu for more information.
Bar-Takers Mark Your Calendars

ASHLEY DUBOSE
WRITER

You may not want to think about it, but the Bar Exam is just around the corner. While it is frightening, the Bar Exam is the final step in your legal education. To make the process just a little easier, below is an outline of the basic dates and fees you should pay attention to over the next few months.

Pay attention! This information concerns you, too.

Florida Bar Exam
The next bar exam is in February, but the late registration date has already passed. Good luck to you Coastal students sitting in February!

The first deadline for the July exam is May 1st.
There is a $375 application fee on early registration is filed and an $875 application fee if the early registration is not filed. (LLs, you may have 3 years, but do you really want to wait and pay the full fee later?)
There is a $275 fee for late applications postmarked June 1st or after, and a $525 late fee for applications postmarked by June 15th.
There is also a $100 fee for the use of ExamSoft, and you must register to use ExamSoft before the exam.
The Florida Bar is a two day exam; one day for the Florida portion, and one day for the Multistate Bar Exam.
The exam is always held in Tampa, so you may want to reserve a hotel room well before the test.
Florida requires a scaled score of 80 on the MPRE, and you must take the MPRE before the exam.
The Florida Bar Exam occurs on Saturday, March 7th, and the last registration date is February 12, this is the last registration date, the initial filing date has already passed.
The fee for the MPRE is $60, and the fee for late applications is $120.
The exam lasts for two hours and five minutes.
The test consists of 60 multiple choice questions, along with 10 "Test Center Review Items" that will ask you about your reactions to the testing conditions.
This information was taken from the Georgia Bar Admissions' website at www.gabaradmissions.org.

MPRE
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This information was taken from the National Conference of Bar Examiners' website at www.ncbex.org.

Bar Exam:
The deadline to file to take the next Bar Exam is June 5th.
The fee for the Bar Exam is $90, and the NCBE fee is $70.
There is a $100 fee for the use of ExamSoft, and Macs are compatible with the software. Be advised that you must register to use ExamSoft.
This is a two day exam, one day will have four essays and two Multistate Performance Tests, and the other day is dedicated to the Multistate Bar Exam.
Georgia requires a scaled score of 75 on the MPRE.
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Ledbetter Legislation

The Supreme Court held that employers are protected from the lawsuits regarding race and gender discrimination if the employee has failed to sue within the 180-day statute of limitations.
The new Act invokes discrimination in the classes it is designed to protect, and those who have been subject to discrimination in the past. Not surprisingly, it has received both praise and criticism from political pundits. Some strongly supported the passage claiming that the law protects issues important to America: fairness and equality. Others were not so convinced, stating that every paycheck is an opportunity for a potential violation of the law; ushering more lawsuits, and blurring the lines between merits, seniority, and discrimination.

Ginsburg previously underwent surgery for colorectal cancer in September 1999. Ginsburg continued to work on pending cases while in her hospital bed after her previous surgery. Less than a month later she appeared in public to give a speech and said, “I am still mending but have progressed steadily.” She never missed a day on the bench.
The Brooklyn native has been mending but have progressed steadily. Less than a month later she returned home. Eight of the nine justices are on a long recovery, but return for a closed door conference February 20.
There is no word on whether Ginsburg will attend that conference February 20.

Ginsburg was attending a conference February 20.

Ginsburg battles cancer

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is currently in a battle with pancreatic cancer. Justice Ginsburg recently underwent surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York to remove a 1-centimeter tumor. However, it is unclear at this time what type of pancreatic cancer doctors removed from Ginsburg. Luckily, a doctor found her tumor during a routine physical and believes her tumor to be in the early stages of cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, only 5 percent of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer survive five years from diagnosis.
Nevertheless, Ginsburg plans to return to the bench when the Supreme Court resumes oral arguments on February 23rd. A Court statement said she will likely remain in the hospital for seven to 10 days, according to her attending surgeon, Dr. Murray Brennan.

The justices are on a long recovery, but return for a closed door conference February 20.

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*Passed the Bar, guaranteed or your money back. Must be a first-time test-taker with a JD from an ABA-approved law school and be enrolled in Kaplan PMBR Complete Bar Review course to qualify. Other restrictions apply. Visit Kaplanpmb.com for complete eligibility requirements. In a November 2007 survey, Kaplan PMBR alumni reported that they found Kaplan PMBR questions to be more like the actual MBE than any other bar review course.*
Coastal’s website now states its non-discrimination policy and justify the violation of its compliance with the law. Lose are so vital as to compel the federal funds it stands to lose. But Coastal has decided that the military should seemly the military’s “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy describes the law school’s violation of its own non-discrimination policy. Coastal’s non-discrimination policy describes the law school as, “...committed to non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, social condition, sex, sexual orientation, age, and handicap…” The military discriminates on the basis of its “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” (DADT) policy which allows gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders to serve in the armed forces provided they do not disclose their sexual orientation. Given the obvious conflict with Coastal’s non-discrimination policy, seemingly the military should not be permitted to recruit on campus. But Coastal has decided that the federal funds it stands to lose are so vital as to compel its compliance with the law and justify the violation of its non-discrimination policy. Coastal’s website now states the “one exception” to its non-discrimination policy as the allowance of military recruiting on its campus. The Career Services Department (CSD) also includes an express disclaimer that they do not condone the military’s discriminatory practices. A “Faculty Letter Regarding Military Recruitment” was disseminated to the Coastal community and posted in the atrium and lobby. Thirty-three members of the Coastal Faculty voiced their opposition to military recruiting on campus along with the military’s use of the CSD. Another six faculty members signed the letter but stated that they disagreed that the solution is to prohibit the military from recruiting on campuses. This semester, DADT is still a hot topic. Coastal’s Moot Court Honor Board is excited to send a team to the Williams Institute Competition at UCLA for the first time on February 20, 2009. The Williams Institute Moot Court Competition is the only national competition dedicated exclusively to the areas of sexual orientation and gender identity law. The competition is designed to promote and recognize the finest oral and written advocacy on a significant problem in sexual orientation and gender identity law.

This year’s problem deals with how substantive due process is affected by Lawrence v. Texas and how it affects the military’s policy of DADT. The competition seeks to expose law students, lawyers, and judges to sexual orientation and gender identity-related legal topics. To that end, the competition’s Judicial Education Program encourages teams to practice their oral arguments before sitting state and federal court judges. Good fortune to the Coastal Moot Court team!

On the morning of the October 11, 2008, Coastal’s Moot Court team made it to the final rounds of the National Constitutional Law Competition in Chicago for the fourth time in five years. Coastal’s Moot Court teams defeated talented and prestigious teams from all over the country. Yet again, the Moot Court team demonstrated why it boasts some of the most talented advocates in the nation. Though the competition officially began on Thursday, November 13th, in actuality, preparation for the competition began months in advance. The process began with the selection of the teams (both oral advocates and brief writers) and the appointment of the all-important team manager, responsible for everything from scheduling practices and judges to aiding in the research and preparation. Candace Weeks served as the team manager for both teams. One team was comprised of Lisa De Long, Roxie Lovett and Kristina Lawrence. On the other team was Benjamin Hughes, Deidrean Lyon and Nikki Sethi. After months of arduous research and practices, the teams finally left for Chicago on November 12th, amidst slight trepidation overwhelmed by utter excitement. Upon arrival in Chicago late that night, and despite delays, confusion, and lost baggage, the teams made it to the hotel early in the morning and prepared for the first rounds the next afternoon.

The competition began with Ben and Deidrean against Marquette University and Roxie and Lisa against New York University. Both teams proceeded to defeat their opponents and advanced into the octo-rounds. The rest of the evening was spent in jubilation fused with anxiety and preparation for the next day. The team dinner and strategic meeting, though somber, reflected the teams’ concomitant successes earlier that evening. During the first round the next day, Lisa De Long and Roxie Lovett performed at such a high level as to receive commendations from the judges, culminating in Lisa defeating 90 other competitors to secure the Best Advocate Award. Ben and Deidrean also performed extraordinarily well, soundly defeating teams from George Mason, Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall and the University of Florida. That evening was spent as a team, carefully dissecting the details of the teams’ victories and anticipating the semi-final and final rounds early the next morning. The semifinal round pitted Ben and Deidrean against St. John’s University, the team which won the award for Best Brief the night before. Though the brief worked in St. John’s favor and despite the advocates’ obvious eloquence, Ben and Deidrean’s seamless arguments secured Coastal’s victory and moved them into the final round against University of Detroit Mercy. Mercy, who had also won the award for Second Best Brief, performed very well, narrowly defeating Coastal. Team members Ben, Deidrean, and Nikki received awards and commendations from the organizers of the competition. The team was also able to meet and speak with the four distinguished United States District Court Judges who judged the final round.

The last night in Chicago was spent with the team members enjoying Chi-town to its fullest. The team members engaged in all sorts of activities, including musicals and dinner theaters. Thanks to Professor Sander Moody’s coaching, Candace’s constant mothering and planning, and the team’s endless dedication, Coastal’s Moot Court teams outperformed nearly thirty other law schools, once again securing a well-deserved place in the spotlight.

Don’t Ask Don’t Tell: Still in the Spotlight

LAUREN RUSSELL

In the Fall 2008 semester, the Federalist Society and Lambda Legal Society hosted the “Solomon Debate.” Professor Roederer and Inspector General Gerald Walpin presented varying viewpoints. The Coastal community packed Room 550 and many chose to stand for a chance to see it live instead of taking advantage of an over-flow room that was available. The Solomon Amendment is a federal law that conditions the receipt of federal funds by educational institutions upon the institution’s allowance of military recruiting on their campuses. The military was most recently present in the Coastal community over the institution’s allowance of military recruiting on September 11, 2008. Their visit created tension in the campus. Since then, the military has been most recently present on Coastal’s campus.

Moot Court Stands Its Ground In The Windy City

NIKKI SETHI


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Mock Trial Advances To The Final Round In Competition

BROOKS TERRY

Only 16 schools from across the nation were offered invitations to compete. Coastal’s Mock Trial team was invited to compete at the Georgetown White Collar Crime Invitational Competition. The competitions were Pace, South Texas, Georgetown, Texas, SMU, Southwest Texas, John Marshall, Houston, Brooklyn, St. John’s, Florida Coastal, Santa Clara and Quinipiac. Coastal, represented by advocates Heath Vickers and Alison Goldberg for the prosecution, and Jamie Wershbale and Molly Tandy for the defense, competed in three rounds against the University of Houston, John Marshall and South Texas. Coastal secured a spot in the final four by defeating the defending champions South Texas. The final four teams were Florida Coastal, University of Houston, John Marshall, and SMU. Coastal was able to head with University of Houston and after a tight round, Houston advanced. Kathleen O’Malley, Senior Litigation Counsel, Assistant of the defense, competed in Coastal’s first White Collar Crime mock trial. The school has already been invited back for next year’s competition.

Moot Court Advances To The Semi-Finals In Competition

KRISTIN RHODUS

Have you ever wanted something that you were unable to get? Maybe it is a car, a job, maybe there is that girl/guy (the unicorn), or a goal that seemed just beyond reach. Well, for the Moot Court Honor Board, that unrealized goal was the Nationals Moot Court Competition. For three years, the Moot Court program has been chasing a win at that competition. For three years, after all the hard work and dedication, Coastal has not advanced past the preliminary rounds.

Last semester, the Moot Court Executive Board reluctantly decided to try the competition one last time. Matt Greer and Trey Smith were given the difficult task of orals and Allison Couch had the sleepless job of writing the brief. I had the pleasure of being the team manager. None of the newer faces could have been possible without our coach, Nick Martino. The questions presented dealt with the constitutionality of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act and a statutory construction issue dealing with the Individualized with Disabilities Education Act. After many long nights and sobering mornings, the team was ready to make this year the year that Coastal made it to the finals and qualified for the National Finals in New York. We drove to Atlanta, braved the bitter cold, and stared in the faces of some amazing competitors. After four preliminary rounds, the competition director announced the final four. I barely made it in the room in time to hear her call out Coastal as one of the four teams to advance. Without a moment’s notice; we moved to our assigned room and prepared to face another team. That one team stood between us and the finals, and trip to New York for the National Finals. We had already accomplished so much. No other Florida Coastal team has made it this far in Nationals.

While the oralists prepared, I escorted the judges into the room and called the court to order. In Moot Court terminology, a bench that asks a lot questions is called a “hot bench.” This bench was “red hot.” Matt and Trey fielded the barrage of questions deftly, sometimes only getting a few words of an answer in between the基准 fired another question.

In the end, Matt and Trey lost the round by .04. Nevertheless, we could not be more proud. This accomplishment was impossible without the stylings of Allison. Her brief received third place, the highest Coastal has placed in this competition and helped carry us to the final four. National’s is no longer an impossibility and maybe next year, we can take it one step further.

CAPIL Auction A Great Success

KELLEY ROUTH

Pro Bono In Action

PROFESSOR MILLARD

CAPIL Auction A Great Success

CHRISTIAN McFARLAND

For those of you who thought you would never see one of our esteemed law professors rocking a microphone or walking around campus wearing a wetsuit, I am completely with you. That does not mean we were correct in our assumptions. Sure, that’s not something you would expect from a typical law school. But this semester has again proven that Coastal is anything but typical. Here there is a sense that community service is the rule, rather than the exception. This culture is due, in large part, to the cooperation between students, faculty, and campus organizations, including the Coastal Association of Public Interest Law (CAPIL). CAPIL consists of approximately 40 members. The organization’s executive officers include Melissa Davenport (President), Lynne Davis (Vice-President), Patrizia Falzone (Vice-President), Tyler Murray (Treasurer), and Candace Weeks (Secretary).

On November 6, CAPIL held a faculty auction to raise funds for the CAPIL Scholarship Fund, which will be rewarding money to students committed to working in Public Interest Law. Typical sectors of Public Interest Law include immigration, consumer advocacy, and family law. Keep in mind that, in the words of Bob Dylan, “The Times They Are A-Changin.” Like the public itself, Public Interest Law is constantly evolving to address the problems that affect our society. The monumental growth of foreclosures is just one example of a relatively unprecedented problem that public interest lawyers vow to address. In describing the progression of Public Interest Law, Edwyn Rekosh, the Executive Director of the Public Interest Law Institute, said “Instead of representing powerful economic interests, they chose to be advocates for those living in poverty. The term has grown, however, to encompass a broader range of activities of lawyers and non-lawyers working toward civil rights, civil liberties, women’s rights, consumer rights, environmental protection, and ‘fighting for the little guy’—that is, representing vulnerable segments of society.”

The auction was held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with items auctioned in both a live and silent format. Professor McFarland emceed the event along with DJ Kris Parnell. Professor McFarland managed the chaos that could be expected from an auction when students had the opportunity to purchase donations of personal and recreational time with faculty members. Among the live auction prizes were a “Doubles Tennis Match with Professors McDowell and Shorstein” for $125, “Dinner For 6” for $50, “2 Jacksonville Jaguars for $400, 2 Jacksonville Jaguars tickets for $115, and “Beer and Bowling with Professor Stinneford for $6” for $400. During the live auction, Professor McFarland made note of Professor Stinneford’s extensive bowling skill, so winners please remember to bring your A-game.

Some of the silent auction prizes were “Private Jam Session with Professor Ducoff and Dean Jones” for $25, “Wine Tasting with Professor Fortner” for $150, and “Awards Night at the Black and Hartland for $65”, and “Private Yoga Session with Professor Bowles and a professional Yoga Instructor for $2” for $50. In all, there were 45 items auctioned, raising a total of $6,148.80 for the CAPIL Scholarship Fund. The success of this event is due to the contributions of many. CAPIL’s executive board and its a sub-committee. CAPIL members volunteered their time to ensure the event ran smoothly. Many others assisted with the faculty auction. All of Coastal’s Deans actively supported the cause, especially Dean Thomas and Dean Duval. Many other student organizations actively assisted, including The Rainmaker, Law Review, Moot Court, LALSA, Animal Law Society, and Law Students Against Violence.

The event drew approximately 400 people, and will likely be held next year at the same time.
Not Just Building A House...
Building A Real Home

KYLE BEDRAN
CONTRIBUTOR

Stressed out from studying? Why not try swinging a hammer? Members of the Real Property, Probate, Trust and Land (RPPTL) Club got the chance to release a little tension and lend a helping hand when they volunteered with HabiJax last semester. HabiJax is an affiliate of Habitat For Humanity created in 1988, here in Jacksonville. HabiJax has built over 1,500 homes and make homeownership affordable for hardworking citizens who, otherwise, unable to reach such a goal. The program combines hard working employees, volunteers, and future homeowners to build each of the homes. Those who qualify for the program must put in a significant amount of volunteer hours as one of the requirements.

The great part of volunteering for HabiJax is that no experience is needed. Seven RPPTL members joined other volunteers and four professionals for quite the experience. Arriving on site, the group was slightly overwhelmed to find nothing but a trailer stacked with boards, a tool truck, and an empty slab. With no construction experience most would be lost at this point, but with a few short lessons, the group was able to accomplish quite a lot.

One member, 1L Christine Berk, had this to say of her experience, “When we first got to the construction site, it was just a dirt lot with the foundation and not much else. By the time we broke for lunch a few hours later, we had four walls up and most of us had our first experience with a power nail gun. Scary, yet exciting! But it wasn’t just about us volunteering a Saturday to help to build a house. This was someone’s house that we were helping to build. Some of the volunteers we met were also building their first home through Habitat, and they were also excited to see that when the walls were up, this would ultimately be someone’s brand new home.”

The group came together to move entire wall pieces that had already been dropped off at the site. The wall pieces were secured with large nails called “sinkers” that are driven by a “power nail gun” (as put by Christine), which carry a charge similar to a .22 caliber round. Even though the sound of the “power nail gun” frightened some volunteers at first it did not stop them from giving it a try. When the group was given the opportunity to operate the “power nail gun,” as well as an air nail gun, a little bit of entertainment was added to the work. However, the project was not all fun and games, most of the group went home with blistered hands and sore muscles from hammering for hours and moving heavy walls. Aside from heading home with those busted hands and sweat stained shirts, the group left with a sense of accomplishment and pride, knowing that they have forever made a positive impact on the city of Jacksonville.

The goal of the RPPTL Club at Florida Coastal is to expose students to the realities and opportunities for practicing in eminent domain, land use & zoning, real estate transactions, title insurance, mortgage law, environmental law, elder law, and other substantive areas associated with property. More information is available at www.floridacoastalrpptl.org.

The RPPTL Club plans to continue its involvement with HabiJax and other affiliates as the group grows. If you are interested in learning more about RPPTL please contact Kyle Bedran at kbedran@fcsle.edu or join us on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 12:00PM as RPPTL co-hosts an Attorney Panel with Career Services. Keep an eye out for updates.

Photo provided by Brooks Terry.

New Housing Clinic Assists Indigent Clients

BROOKS TERRY
WRITER

Low-income tenants facing housing-related legal issues can now get legal assistance from Florida Coastal School of Law students working out of the school’s new Housing Rights Legal Clinic. Caseloads largely involve indigent clients contesting possible evictions.

Professor Lois Ragsdale, who has more than 20 years of legal experience working with the indigent, oversees the clinic. She manages the students’ caseloads as they work with real clients whose households income falls within the federal poverty guidelines, while concurrently giving the students a hands-on understanding of the substantive law regarding the most current indigent housing issues.

“When the economy being in the state that it is and with the number of foreclosures of homes and even rental properties being way up, the demand for lower-income rental housing is far surpassing the supply,” Ragsdale said. “So many people are looking for subsidized options right now, and the current tenants are having to fight extra hard to protect what little they have. They have nowhere else to go. We provide our students a greater understanding of the housing rights,” said Ragsdale.

“The clinic will provide people in Jacksonville with free legal assistance and will help to build a house. This was someone’s house that we were helping to build. Some of the volunteers we met were also building their first home through Habitat, and they were also excited to see that when the walls were up, this would ultimately be someone’s brand new home.”

The group came together to move entire wall pieces that had already been dropped off at the site. The wall pieces were secured with large nails called “sinkers” that are driven by a “power nail gun” (as put by Christine), which carries a charge similar to a .22 caliber round. Even though the sound of the “power nail gun” frightened some volunteers at first it did not stop them from giving it a try. When the group was given the opportunity to operate the “power nail gun,” as well as an air nail gun, a little bit of entertainment was added to the work. However, the project was not all fun and games, most of the group went home with blistered hands and sore muscles from hammering for hours and moving heavy walls. Aside from heading home with those busted hands and sweat stained shirts, the group left with a sense of accomplishment and pride, knowing that they have forever made a positive impact on the city of Jacksonville.

The goal of the RPPTL Club at Florida Coastal is to expose students to the realities and opportunities for practicing in eminent domain, land use & zoning, real estate transactions, title insurance, mortgage law, environmental law, elder law, and other substantive areas associated with property. More information is available at www.floridacoastalrpptl.org.

The RPPTL Club plans to continue its involvement with HabiJax and other affiliates as the group grows. If you are interested in learning more about RPPTL please contact Kyle Bedran at kbedran@fcsle.edu or join us on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 12:00PM as RPPTL co-hosts an Attorney Panel with Career Services. Keep an eye out for updates.

Photo provided by Brooks Terry.

SBA Gives Big To Komen Foundation

BROOKS TERRY
WRITER

Coastal’s Student Bar Association presented a check for $5,000 to representatives from the Susan G. Komen Foundation’s North Florida affiliate in December. As part of its ongoing fundraising and volunteer efforts, the money was raised both through ticket sales to the SBA “Barrister’s Ball” in October, and independent donations.

“We are so happy to be able to give in this way,” said Jessica Akers, Coastal Law’s SBA vice president of internal affairs. “We all know someone who has been affected by breast cancer – friends and family - and when we were trying to decide who to donate to, the entire executive council was in 100 percent agreement that the Komen Foundation was the perfect choice.”
Dear Fellow Students,

A major part of our role as your Student Bar Association is representing your interests to our Administration. While our Administration is known for its open door policy to hear individual concerns from students, many students do not feel comfortable or have the time to take their concerns directly to our Deans. Students are encouraged to bring their concerns to the SBA Executive Council or Legislators to have these issues presented to the Administration. The SBA offers an open door policy for our offices in Rooms 150 and 151. Legislators also sit at tables bi-weekly at the atrium during the lunch hour to hear any individual concerns.

As a result of your initiative, we have been able to work with our Administration to bring about several changes that you have requested over the past semester.

One of the major issues expressed by the students is the grading curve. In the fall of 2007, students passed the International Death Penalty Initiative of 2007.” The highlighted section of the Initiative was for a grading curve more comparable to other law school grading curves in the state. This past spring, members of last year’s and the current SBA Executive Council began pushing the issue of the curve. The SBA was proud that a special faculty committee recently drafted a new grading curve that will help level the playing field for Coastal students competing with students from other Florida law schools. The new curve was made effective immediately and was reflected in your fall final grades.

The SBA also worked with the Administration to provide students with a letter to accompany resumes for potential employers explaining the grading curve. Moreover, the SBA continued to work with the Administration to provide final exam study rooms for those wishing to stay on campus during finals. The library is also hosting summer internships for students.

The SBA is also working with our Administration to provide more funding for Student Organizations to network for our school at conferences. The concerns over the cancellation of December graduation were also brought to the Administration. Despite the Administration’s desire to stand on their ultimate decision to move to one graduation a year, the SBA was successful at working for some compromise for students graduating this past December.

A couple faculty concerns were also brought to the SBA this past fall. For example, student concerns over the non-functioning fountains in student lounge. The SBA is also working with our Administration to provide these facilities with a more comfortable study environment. A couple other minor concerns have also been addressed by the SBA including adding an additional microwave to our student lounge.

The SBA is also working with the Administration to provide student organization storage facilities and a new trophy case to display the numerous trophies received by Coastal law students in various activities of this event.

In a spirit of camaraderie and collaboration, Coastal students teamed-up with visiting students to work on legal problems prepared by the U.S. Attorney’s office. In fact, the students first met each other, electronically, that is, when the legal problems were assigned. We had an opportunity to offer each other research tips and findings, especially relating to foreign law issues during the course of the semester as we researched and wrote our legal memorandums. Once the students were in Marie Antoinette’s law school, we spent the day discussing and reviewing our work and strategizing for our presentations. On the first day we also did a “dry run” of our oral arguments in front of different faculty members. Professors Roederer, Groves, Pimentel, Ponte, and Tan, along with Professor Hartland from the Caribbean served as judges and helped us organize and fine tune our presentations.

The highlight of the entire program was the actual presentation downtown in the ceremominal courtroom of the Federal Courthouse before United States Magistrate Judge Monte Richardson and U.S. Attorney Nick Pilgrim from the Middle District of Florida. Coastal graduate and Caribbean Law Clinic alumna, Dana Genus, now Judge Richardson’s law clerk. She helped organize her judge’s participation and then served as time-keeper during oral argument. The students’ arguments were a part of the deliberations on a variety of cases, including the petition for habeas corpus on a death row inmate, the 18th amendment case, and the case of the people v. the State, which the students argued

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Pauline Lawrence Contributor

Coastal hosted six member law schools of the American & Caribbean Law Initiative (ACLI) for the Caribbean Law Clinic on November 12 – 16. It was, I believe, a once-in-a-lifetime legal experience. Like other students at Coastal, the ACLI program was the selling point for me attending Coastal, and I was discharged in the first floor study rooms. Plans are now in the works to place some sort of privacy tint over the first floor windows to provide students with a more comfortable study environment. A couple other minor concerns have also been addressed by the SBA including adding an additional microwave to our student lounge.

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Coastal Dominates The Football Field

C. CHRISTIAN LUKJAN CONTRIBUTOR

Every year, around March 14th downtown Jacksonville closes off the roads and bridges in some sections of town for the Gate River Run. At least 15,000 people walk, run, jog, or out-and-out sprint for 15 kilometers. (That is 10.6 miles for those people who refuse to use the metric system.) The prize at the end for the top winners may amount to around $65,000. But, for the rest of us, merely finishing is a goal worthy of the medal that they hang around your neck.

Racers start at a park, and after crossing at least two bridges, reach the Jacksonville stadium. The last leg of the race is crossing the long and steep Hart bridge. Signs are set through out the length of the race to point runners where to go. Additionally, water stations are often set along the race in the event that participants get thirsty. Checkpoint stations are also set up along the length to let everyone know how they are doing on time. (From personal experience, don’t count on the water stations or checkpoint signs being where you want them to be though.) Runners should attempt to arrive at least one hour before the race begins at 8:30 a.m. in order to find parking, stretch, and find a spot in line. If you are one of the incredible people with lightning speed, you will have received a seeding in the front of the pack. (Seeding means that you have a fast time and can probably run ahead of the pack.) For the rest of us, we find a spot somewhere in the middle of the running pack. Signs are posted at the beginning of the race that denotes the time it takes a person to run a mile. Runners clamp around those signs with other runners that keep that same pace throughout the race. Then we wait for the mark of the gun to begin the race.

This year, American Association for Justice (AAJ) formed a running group. If you are interested in joining the rest of the group, please email President Christian Lukjan at clukjan@fcsl.edu so that you can meet up with AAJ the day of the race. (Carpooling can also be arranged.) According to the Gate River Run flyer, part of the proceeds go to charity every year. While you have to pay for costs of the run, it is always better to run in a group as well as to enjoy the after party with friends. The Gate River Run takes place on March 14th and signing up is simple. Log onto www.active.com and register or stop by any First Place Sports location to register.

Good luck and happy trails!

Coastal Takes On The 2009 Gate River Run

C. CHRISTIAN LUKJAN CONTRIBUTOR

Every year, around March 14th downtown Jacksonville closes off the roads and bridges in some sections of town for the Gate River Run. At least 15,000 people walk, run, jog, or out-and-out sprint for 15 kilometers. (That is 10.6 miles for those people who refuse to use the metric system.) The prize at the end for the top winners may amount to around $65,000. But, for the rest of us, merely finishing is a goal worthy of the medal that they hang around your neck.

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Good luck and happy trails!

Sports Law Society Golf Tournament To Benefit Big Brothers & Big Sisters

KRISTIN RHODUS CONTRIBUTOR

Coastal’s Sports Law Society is putting on a golf tournament, to benefit Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Northeast Florida on April 10,2009 at 8:30am. The tournament is a way for us to further promote Coastal in the community, as well as the Sports Law Program, which is a crucial part of our school. Last year’s tournament saw over 100 golfers participate, including students, professors, and attorneys. The tournament was also able to make a donation to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Northeast Florida due to the tournament’s success. This year we would like to make a bigger donation to the organization. We would appreciate and love to have any and all sponsors who are willing to help us put on a great tournament. Also, we invite sponsors to register a team in the tournament, if they so choose.

We will be playing a basic scramble with a shotgun start at 8:30am. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Entrance into the tournament costs $65 per person or $290 per team. We are trying some new things this year and welcome your ideas and comments about the previous years to ensure that this year’s tournament is even better. For any questions, comments or to sign up and pay your entrance, please contact Kristin Rhodus at krmrhodus@fcsl.edu.
Job Loss And Its Fatal Result

RUBY GREENE
CONTRIBUTOR

As more and more citizens lose their jobs because of the economy’s downturn, some families are finding it better to end their lives. A Wilmington, CA family was found dead Tuesday in their home on January 27th. As the story goes, both Ervin Lupoe (Father) and Ana Lupoe (Mother) were terminated two weeks ago from their jobs at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center after being accused of misconduct. Apparently the couple fraudulently claimed childcare benefits from their employer. On the Tuesday morning of January 27th, at around 8:30 a.m., Mr. Lupoe sent a fax to KABC-TV (the local TV station), explaining that he and his wife had been fired from the medical center as Medical Technicians. Lupoe claimed to have been repeatedly ill-treated by his superiors throughout the investigation that occurred before their dismissal. One administrator told Mr. Lupoe “You shouldn’t have come to work today, you should have blown your brains out.” The Lupoé’s were offered an apology for the comment but soon lost their jobs. Mr.Lupoe called their job loss a “horrendous ordeal”. The suicide note claimed that his wife felt it better to kill their five children so that “they were not left in someone else’s hands”, and he agreed. The TV station called the police after receiving the fax and at the same time, police dispatch received a phone call from a man who stated that he returned home to find his family dead. Police are uncertain of who the caller was, but suspected it to be the father. Officers rushed to the home and found their bodies, including the father’s. It is being strained that the Lupoes were not laid off because of the economic recession, but the hospital refused to comment on the allegations.

The economic downturn could be said to have much to do with this situation. The Lupoe’s were in high debt, behind in their mortgage, and had five children. This man and his wife had lost their jobs, and with all the cut downs, there is no way that they would have been able to find something suitable or anything at all. There have been several mass murders that were carried out by people who lost their jobs. The economy is in bad shape and people are facing tough economic times: foreclosures, job loss, etc., which leave some people feeling as if there is no hope. Losing your job, especially when you have a family to take care of is a huge despair and that despair can push you over the edge. However, people need to know that killing/suicide is not the best way to solve the problem… you should seek help.

Opinions & Editorials

Dear Fellow Students,

I am excited to have taken on the Editor-In-Chief position with the Rainmaker. This semester marks a new journey for me and the Rainmaker staff. It is our goal to dedicate our time to publish a newspaper the Coastal community is excited to read. The Rainmaker is a way to highlight Coastal’s name, students, programs, organizations, and achievements.

The staff and I are excited to cover a wide range of subjects such as current events on campus and within the Coastal community, national news, sports, and entertainment. There is also the opportunity to voice your opinion. We are always looking for more help for the Rainmaker. If you have ever been involved with a newspaper, want to get involved with Coastal’s newspaper, or if you have any great ideas, please let us know. We welcome any suggestions or constructive criticism in our effort to make the Rainmaker the most complete law student newspaper in the country.

The staff and I want to help create exposure for Coastal in the community to enhance opportunities for job placement. It is important to leave our mark on Coastal and continue a successful newspaper.

I look forward to working with my staff and the Coastal community this semester.

Sincerely,
Candace Weeks
TheRainmaker@fcsl.edu

Modifying Your Online Registration

NATHAN AUSTIN
CONTRIBUTOR

It will soon be that time of the semester again. The preoccupation, the stress, the planning, the agony… You work up to it and when the time passes, you crash and feel a hollessness inside. No, I’m not talking about the holiday season, but class registration. That time of the semester is usually punctuated by several students feeling decidedly frustrated by their inability to register for the classes they want. Perhaps you would love to take ‘Common Interest Communities’, but it is not being offered this semester, or it conflicts with another class. What if your ideal schedule includes full days of classes on Tuesday and Thursday with a four-day weekend every week, but the only time you can take Professional Responsibility is Monday and Fridays at noon? What if you have the schedule of your dreams, but must take 15 credits? But, by the time you can finally register, only three classes are left; none of which are SKILLS classes, help you prepare for the bar, or remotely interest you? There should be some avenue for you to address these concerns. Dean DuBose suggests a schedule to the faculty, and another from faculty, the deans decide which classes will be offered. Currently, the decision-makers have very few mediums to gauge student interest. One way is the waitlist. The second thing a student can do to show his interest is, if a student wants to suggest a new class offering, he should contact Dean DuBose. Essentially, the student will need to prepare a ‘course description,’ similar to what is currently found on the Registrar’s page. The description should include a list of goals and procedures for the course. Dean DuBose will confer with the student and then present the idea to the curriculum committee. If the curriculum committee believes the course is a good one, the committee will propose it to the full faculty for approval. Finally, there is another way that a student can individually express his interest in a class being offered out of order. A glance at the Master Course List tells students which classes are approved at Coastal and how frequently. Students can contact deans that are similarly interested in taking that class out of order and contact Dean DuBose. Gathering a group of students in this way can be difficult, but fear not! The SBA is considering at least two alternatives to make this easier: updating the full course description list and making it possible for students to offer input whether they are interested in taking that course; or a TWEN page. Our desperate pleas for help have not gone unheeded. Bri-an Strickland, the SBA President, has said “I know that the Administration needs some avenue to know what interest exists for particular courses other than just waiting lists. Also, students need to know the procedure for waiting lists as well. I will [contact] our Academic Affairs Committee and see what they can come up with on this.” While the SBA is working to make our lives easier and less stressful, their plans may take time to implement. The Academic deans and the faculty will be considering course schedules for the Summer, Fall Intersession, and Fall semesters as early as next February. So, if a student wants to make his interest known and take a more proactive role in assuring himself a voice in his future education and scheduling, he will need to act quickly.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

nathan austin
contribution
Take A Break With Tapas

David Greene | Contributor
Florida has a rich diversity of cultures but many have not had the chance to experience authentic Spanish cuisine. When most Floridians think of Spanish foods, they may think of black beans and rice, maybe tacos or fajitas – and possibly some pork. But this is not true Spanish food. The Sangria House offers traditional items from Spanish cooking along with a few twenty twists on classic dishes. Much of the menu is seafood with a variety of coastal dishes ranging from fish and shrimp to clams and squid. Family owned and operated, the restaurateurs are former chefs of the La Navarta restaurant in Malaga, Spain and have over twenty-five years in the restaurant business. Those for those not familiar with Spanish-style restaurants, say hello to Tapas. Tapas are the generic name for a variety of appetizers in Spanish cuisine. They are here, and they are delicious. While at first you might balk at ordering what seems like expensive appetizers, remember that Tapas should be shared with a few friends. Travelers here to eat with one person might leave you wanting to try more of the menu – so bring three or four friends instead.

Bread and a dipping sauce are the first course, and are complimentary. Following is your salad (if you ordered one), and then the star of the show: the tapas. Sangria House offers 14 permanent tapas with about a half dozen more seasonal specialties to round out the menu. The food is fresh and satisfying. By far, my favorites were the Spinach pancakes – lightly fried and served with a tangy garlic and lemon aioli. Also served were some crispy Chorizo empanadas and a pulled pork sandwich with homemade, hand-cut fries. All were delicious and balanced the sweet sangria. For a real treat, order the caldo gallego soup – one of the best and most flavorful I have ever had.

If you can wait 45 minutes, order the paella: the classic national rice dish of Spain – made using the Andalucian method of keeping the rice firm. It is prepared using chicken, pork, squid, clams, shrimp, and mussels – a fantastic dish that should be shared with friends and a pitcher of sangria. Happy hour is half-price drinks from 2-5 and that means half-price sangria. For the uninhibited, sangria is a wine punch, usually served on the rocks. Sangria is typically a mixture of red wine, fruit, sugar, and brandy. You can order it by the glass, half-pitcher and full-pitcher. A half-pitcher will pour 4 glasses and cost you $7.50 during happy hour. The sangria is sweet, but robust. I have had my share of sangria and believe me, you’ll want to order a few glasses while you go through your meal.

Sangria House is located next to Publix, on Southside Blvd., across from Tinseltown.

Caribbean Clinic...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

breathe life into otherwise fictitious clients. At least one of these clients was arguably saved from suffering death by hanging in Barbados.

Federal Prosecutor Pilgrim and Judge Richardson – as well as his bailiff - not only seemed to enjoy the oral arguments, accen
ted and all, but also congratulated us on the pre-
sentations. Judge Richardson acknowledged that we must have prepared extensively for the presentations because they were very good. Prosecutor Pilgrim likened the oral argu-
ments to some of the best adv-
ocacies in the legal field and predicted that we had a bright future ahead of us. In thanking the judicial panel, Professor Knechtle, Professor of Coast-
al’s Caribbean Law Clinic and brainchild of the ACLI, expressed the gratitude we all felt for the court’s time, at-
tention and work. Professor Knechtle later thanked Senior Clinicalian Brent Hicks and his secretary Clare Raulerson for making this Caribbean Law Clinic such a success.

As I reflected on the entire Car-
ibbean law experience, I was reminded of my native Jamaai-
can mantra, which was more than likely one of the lega-
cies of colonialism: “heights of great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but while their compan-
ions slept, were toiling up-
ward in the night.” Others also expressed their sentiments. According to David Fleming, a student from Norman Man-
ley Law School, the event was “a great way to network” while learning Caribbean law. The departing words of Professor Dorothea Beane from Stetson will become another mantra that resonates with me. “Re-
member why you came to law school,” she advised. “Any at-
torney can regurgitate the law, but it is the attorneys who can explain the law in terms that a 12 year-old understands who are truly assets to the legal profession.”

Easy Fiesta Dip

Morgan Montano | Writer
So they’re not Rodeo Drive, Red Square, or even Madison Avenue, but Premium Outlets in St. Augustine are surviving the economy with shiny new specialty stores fit for a king and crowds of starry-eyed shoppers searching for a vacation spending spree.

Because of its location, St. Augustine’s Premium Outlets are proclaiming the birth of its brand new babies, Kate Spade, Juicy Couture, Giacci, and Saks 5th Avenue Off STI. Most opened on November 7, 2008, with special pre-sale perks (extra 30% off cash, mene, jewellery, outerwear, etc.) and crowds of starry-eyed shoppers ready to valet their cars (yes, valet!). The Prime Outlets’ hours are, Monday – Saturday, 9am – 9pm, and Sunday, 10am – 6pm. Premium Outlets is located just off of I-95 South. Take Exit 318 on to State Road 16 in St. Au-
gustine; a mere 25 miles from Coastal.

Now, you may be wondering whether the lowly law student with only a slight jingle in the pocket can actually partake in such upmarket pleasures, and my answer is, “at up to 65% off retail prices, yes we can!”

interested in joining the rainmaker?

Join Florida Coastal’s student newspaper!
We’re looking for students with interest in working with the following:
- Layout Design
- Writers
- Advertising Sales
- Ad Design

The work is not very demanding and works around your school schedule.
Contact Candace Weeks at therainmaker@fcsu.edu for more information.
The Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the conviction of Antonio Batista in November, declaring that his “death threat” against a Mississauga city council member, in the form of a sonnet on long-neglected potholes, was more likely literary expression. (Globe & Mail, 11-5-08)

An Oregon district attorney’s office set out two years ago to prosecute David Simmons for having sex the year before with his girlfriend, then 14, while he was 17. A grand jury in Jefferson County refused to indict Simmons, but the prosecutor acted exactly like the indictment went through, and no one, including Simmons, noticed the mistake. Only when Simmons agreed to plead guilty in exchange for a 30-day sentence in October 2006 did the news finally reach the foreman of the grand jury that had “no-billed” Simmons, and the foreman’s complaint caused the judge to dismiss the conviction. However, in December 2008, prosecutors in neighboring Lane County charged Simmons anew for that 2005 tryst, claiming that “double jeopardy” does not apply because the Jefferson County case never legally happened (In that Simmons was never really indicted.) (Register-Guard (Eugene), 12-17-08)

In Plant City, FL, in December, Robert Thompson and Taurus Morris were charged with armed burglary after changing a woman’s egg-beater from her at knifepoint. It was not reported why they wanted the egg-beater or why the victim had to be threatened at knifepoint to get it. (Tampa Tribune, 12-15-08)

A Cape Haze, FL man is arrested for robbery after his car runs out of gas during the getaway. According to the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office, deputies arrested 23-year-old David Eric Hampton in connection with a Bowie knife armed robbery of the BP station, 8675 Placida Rd., in Cape Haze early Sunday at 3:30 a.m. Deputies were dispatched after a man wearing a hooded sweatshirt pulled a 12-inch Bowie knife on the clerk, demanded money, then fled. However, a customer outside saw the robbery, got back in his car, called 9-1-1, and followed the white Mercury Cougar. The witness lost sight of the vehicle as it sped away; he then returned to the store. Deputies, K-9 and a sheriff’s helicopter responded and set up a perimeter after a black hooded sweatshirt and other clothing believed worn by the suspect were located behind a home on Cape Haze Drive. A newspaper carrier approached the K-9 deputy during the search and said there was a white car stopped at Arlington Dr. and Amberjack Place, and a man with a beard told him he ran out of gas. Deputies located the vehicle and ran the tag which came back to the owner, Hampton. Shortly before 9 a.m., a deputy saw a man fitting the description of the suspect behind a home on Amberjack Place. The suspect was ordered to stop, and was identified as Hampton. Hampton was transported to the Charlotte County Jail and charged with Robbery with a Weapon, and Loitering and Prowling. He remains in the jail on no bond. (MySuncoast.com, 12-9-09)

York, PA police want to speak with the person who posted a sign on a home commenting on drug activity in the area. The sign appeared February 3rd on the South Penn Street residence. The sign reads, “Deer Crack Dealer, You kin sell crack on this block and the York Police will not stop you.” Earlier in the week a similar message appeared in the home’s window. The message included, “They fear you. Crack Rules.” A brick was thrown through the window, police said. After it was boarded up the new message appeared.[WGAL.com, 2-6-09]

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Beaches-MacCool’s: Saturday, January 10th. You were having drinks with friends and stop to talk to me at the bar. Ordered a Long Island. Wish I asked for your number. Call me. [ID# 2009-1]

Pretty Pink Drink: You bought me a shot on Superbowl Sunday. You were a Steelers fan and I was bitter the Eagles didn’t make it. Sorry I wasn’t very talkative. [ID# 2009-2]

WANTED: Somebody to go back in time with me. This is not a joke. You’ll get paid after we get back. Must bring your own weapons. Safety not guaranteed. I have only done this once before. [ID# 2009-3]

Steelers fan and I was bitter the Eagles didn’t make it. Sorry I wasn’t very talkative. [ID# 2009-4]

Your ad here. Contact TheRainmaker@fcsl.edu

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Have you seen someone you wish you had talked to? Talked to someone and didn’t get their number? Even if you don’t know their name, or can’t remember it, if you’re sure they are on campus, send them an anonymous ad for just $5. Think you may be the person someone is looking for? Email TheRainmaker@fcsl.edu with the ID# listed in the subject line and we will put you in contact. The Rainmaker reserves the right to edit any and all submissions. All submissions are held in confidence.

International Law Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. Law that is so fundamental or basic
2. Territorial _______: control over its internal affairs
3. What people are entitled to regardless of citizenship, ethnicity, gender, etc.
4. Legal actions
5. Federation of nations
6. Administrative arm of the United Nations
7. Formal adoption by a state’s head of government
8. Attributes are territory, population, and government
9. Cannot be prosecuted by courts for purely governmental actions
10. Agreement of a state to be bound by a treaty
11. International and municipal law operate independently but in coordinated spheres
12. Law practices for the future that have been regarded to be lawful in the past
13. The courtesy between nations as a matter of goodwill
14. Outlines objectives, structure, powers, etc., of an IGO
15. Multi ________ enterprise

Down
1. International Court of Justice
2. Court with jurisdiction over commercial litigation
3. Court that handles only commercial litigation
4. Court that handles only non-commercial litigation
5. Court of Appeals
6. Court with jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters
7. Highest court
8. Court of Appeals
9. Court that handles only non-commercial litigation
10. Court that handles only commercial litigation
11. Ability of a court to hear a matter
12. Government branch of law and justice
13. List of matters scheduled for hearing in a court
14. Asking a higher court for review
15. Court that handles only commercial litigation

Solution to Last Issue’s Crossword

Tell us what you think!

Here at The Rainmaker, we welcome comments from our readers. In order to be considered for publication, letters should not exceed 400 words and must contain the author’s full name and a valid e-mail address. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Send all submissions to therainmaker@fcsl.edu.

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