

Professor Powers: A (Maroon and) Gold Mine

Having just survived Spring semester registration, the search to find good professors is fresh in the minds of most students. Whether scrambling to get overrides or searching UGBC's online Professor Evaluation Profiles, students realize the value of having an excellent instructor. Professor Richard Powers of the Carroll School of Management's Business Law Department is one of those preferred educators.

Professor Powers graduated from B.C. in 1975 and from B.C. Law in 1978 – this ranks him among the “Double Eagles.” From 1983-1986 he taught at Boston University Law School and since 2000 he has taught as an Adjunct Professor at Boston College. Among the courses he teaches are “Introduction to Law,” “Ethics,” and “Insurance,” which is being offered this coming Spring through the Business Law Department.

Professor Powers worked for a couple larger firms in Boston before moving to his firm in Wellesley. Civil litigation is his specialty, which requires trial work in cases of commercial and real

estate dispute, as well as personal injury and environmental law. A significant amount Professor Powers' time is also dedicated to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Because some courts cannot handle the large number of cases being filed, disputing parties are more frequently opting to settle out of court with ADR. The two options for ADR are mediation, in which a non-binding solution is agreed on by both parties, and arbitration, in which a binding solution is reached.

Being the first in his family to attend college, Professor Powers expresses a passion for knowledge and hard work. This dedication to his studies drew him into the field of law. Law to this day remains “intellectually stimulating and challenging” for him but it is of equal importance to him to have the opportunity to “help people resolve problems.”

This desire to serve is especially evident though when Professor Powers talks about teaching. Simply put he says, “I teach because I truly love to teach. It's something that I do for pleasure.” This attitude is refreshing when other professors can sometimes seem too busy for students or wrapped up in their work outside the classroom. Although Professor Powers taught law school classes in the past, he prefers to teach undergraduates. He finds the Boston College community unique because “the students almost universally are interested and hard-

working.”

Professor Powers balances his courtroom and classroom time in relation to one superior factor, his family. Professor Powers and his wife have three children, two boys and a girl ages 20, 18, and 14 respectively. He enjoys traveling with his family and spending time at their house on Cape Cod, as well as collecting antiques. In his own words his pastimes “revolve around family and teaching.”

When asked to offer advice to students considered a career in law, Professor Powers offered this advice. A student should examine whether he is ready to make the huge commitment of going to law school. Professor Powers would encourage someone considering law to determine what it is that a lawyer does. That is, to make sure one is not chasing an ideal. Finally, he suggests that potential law students understand the rigorousness of law school and prepare adequately.

Professor Powers is a gold mine among professors and has much knowledge and advice to share. Maintaining a balance among work, family, and his passions, Professor Powers represents the field of law and Boston College well.

IN PREPARATION...

SOME LSAT QUESTIONS
COURTESY OF MARISA POLICASTRO
AND THE
PRINCETON REVIEW

The best professors never tell their students what to write. They strive instead to establish an intellectually critical environment conducive to thorough and creative scholarship, because training a student through indoctrination is never as effective as encouraging a student to develop his faculties independently. Truly impressive scholarly work can be produced only by the student who feels that he is breaking new ground, or at least treating familiar ground in a fresh and original manner.

Which one of the following statements is assumed by the argument above?

- a) Most students who are not told what to write produce great scholarly work
- b) Professors who do not enjoy the security of tenure have no incentive to teach in the fashion described above

c) A student cannot create impressive scholarly work if he has been instructed on what he should write

d) Many great professors do not use an authoritative and dogmatic style of teaching

e) Many good students prefer being told what to write to the pressure of being encouraged to formulate their own, however original, ideas

Although all prisons have some system of social hierarchy among prisoners, there are some social hierarchies in prisons that are based neither on physical strength nor on length of incarceration. However, there is no such thing as a system of social hierarchy in which no distinction is made between those who have influence over the actions of others and those who do not.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage above?

- a) The ability to measure personal influence is derived from the need for social hierarchy
- b) All prison hierarchies have a system with which to identify whether a given individual has influence over the actions of an-

other

c) Each individual prison community has its own unique set of criteria by which to measure social status

d) There are certain aspects of social status that are common among all social hierarchies

e) There are certain aspects of social status that are common among all hierarchies

INSIDE THE WALLS OF The University of Connecticut, *School of Law*

Contact Information

Admissions Office

University of Connecticut, School of
Law

45 Elizabeth Street

Hartford, CT 06105

www.law.uconn.edu

(860)570-5100

admit@law.uconn.edu

During a pre-law student's four years at BC they will hear a lot about BC Law, but what about the other 184 law schools in America. A majority of the law schools in the United States are private institutions. However, the University of Connecticut, School of Law is one of the few public law schools. The school is located two miles from downtown Hartford, CT in a residential area. The campus is 21 acres and consists of 4 academic buildings and a law library. In addition the school is located right by the

Connecticut's Attorney General's Office, courts, agencies, and the offices of many of Hartford's law firms.

According to US News, UConn Law is ranked #43 in the country. The admissions office, like that of many other law schools, received record numbers of applications in the past few years for a limited number of spots. For the 1L class at UConn Law over 1600 applications were received and 524 were accepted. This may seem like a small number of students being admitted but it allows the school to maintain small classes. The school boasts a 12:1 student-faculty ratio.

For the Class admitted in 2002, the median LSAT was 160 and the median undergraduate GPA was 3.45. Graduates of UConn Law have found success in the legal community. Following graduation in 2000, 95% of the graduates were employed or were perusing other degrees. UConn Law offers many dual degree programs if a student's interests span many career fields. With other schools in the area a J.D. can be pursued concurrent with LL.M., M.A., M.B.A., M.P.H., M.S.W., M.P.A., M.L.S.

Connecticut is commonly known as the insurance capital of the

world. Consequently, UConn Law provides many opportunities for those students who wish to enter this field. One of the student journals published at the law school, Connecticut Insurance Law Journal, allows students an opportunity for in depth study. Also, other journals published at the school are the Connecticut Journal of International Law, Connecticut Law Review, and the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal.

The University of Connecticut, *School of Law* has some excellent additional perks for students from New England and Connecticut. For students from Connecticut tuition is reduced to \$11,374. In addition, lower tuition is applicable to those students who hail from any of the New England states. New England tuition is \$17,060 and for all other students tuition \$23,992.

Whether you are applying to schools now or just examining your options for the future, the University of Connecticut, *School of Law* holds many opportunities for its students. However, the application deadline for the fall term is March 15, 2002. Additional application information can be found at the law schools website.

Elizabeth DiPardo

Eye Witness Account

A first year student's perspective on
Harvard Law School

Staring in the opposing currents of people exiting and entering the D line T at Park Street I never expected to see someone I knew. But as a tall lanky individual with a dark green backpack entered the train I did a double take. I hesitated with questioning; surely my friend from the Classics Department at Columbia University could not be on the same train as I was in Boston. Then I remembered that he had gone to Harvard Law School after graduation. Quickly I maneuvered myself towards the front of the train and took the seat next to Lenny. "Lenny?" I questioned.

He turned and as surprised as I had been, answered, "Juliet...wow...how are you?" With all the formalities out of the way, I begin to interrogate him about his experience at law school. My only impressions of Harvard Law were formed from the skewed images present *Legally Blonde* and the stern introduction from the school's website which unequivocally states, "Established in 1817, Harvard is the oldest continuously operating law school in the United States. The School provides comprehensive and enlightened training to prepare its graduates for law practice, for public service at the local, state, federal and international levels, and for the law teaching and legal scholarship." I was intrigued to understand the realities of such a prestigious and almost mythical institution. My casual interview with Lenny revealed some of those truths.

The first truth I learned is that some people are actually accepted to Harvard Law contrary to the intimidating statistics of 3.94/3.76 GPAs and 173/167 LSAT scores. But here was Lenny, a living example of a Harvard Law student. Like all the pre-law programs suggest and law school brochures recommend, it seems that a strong liberal arts background is all that is necessary to attend law school. Lenny majored in Clas-

sics at Columbia University and had no legal background when he applied; as of yet he still has no courtroom experience.

Apparently, despite all the "dead language" comments Classics majors incur, learning Latin and Greek really do have some application. Lenny stated that he felt that "the law is like another language." Thus the analytical and linguistic skills he acquired during undergraduate studies were useful in his legal studies. Like all languages, one must learn the principals in elementary course before expounding on advanced studies. To ensure this initial fundamental instruction, Harvard mandates that first year law students take First-Year Lawyering, criminal law, contracts, civil procedure, torts, and property. During the first year, students only get to choose one elective. Lenny was thinking of specializing in child advocacy law and thus was taking his elective in that subject. As the years progress, however, students are given more liberty in their course selection. In fact, courses during the second and third year are all electives, but Corporations, Taxation, Constitutional Law, and Accounting are all recommended. Though Lenny is not necessary passionate about taxes or corporate law, he plans on taking these courses. He hopes to use these skills to do routine work to support himself while putting most of his energy into lower paying and even pro bono child advocacy law.

Though his ideals are lofty, he reminded me that "law school is not inexpensive" and with Harvard Law School's tuition at approximately \$29,500 this year his definitely correct. As the T lurched into Reservoir Station, Lenny quickly pulled out his criminal law book. "Brand new" he said, "and it only cost me \$150." Certainly law school, and Harvard Law especially, is not cheap, but the academic prowess and opportunities of the school are realities. Hopefully with these expensive truth manifest into his legal skills, Lenny can ambitiously seek his goals and use his abilities to the best interest of society while still managing to pay off all those loans.

Juliet Mohnkern

Keeping You Posted On... BC's MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Hale Yazicioglu, Mock Trial Coordinator

Every winter, the BC Mock Trial Team attends Regional tournaments sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association. On January 31st and February 1st, two BC Mock Trial Teams competed in the Manchester, CT Regional. One of the teams, captained by Jason Hirsch '03, placed sixth overall with a 6-2 record, and qualified for the National Tournament in St. Paul Minnesota. The team also received the "Spirit of AMTA" award for their sportsmanship during the competition and Jason also received an outstanding attorney award for his performance. The other BC team that competed that weekend, captained by Brenna Casey '05, also did well. Congrats to both teams!

The weekend before the Manchester Regional, our other two teams competed at the Cornell Invitational Tournament. One of the teams, captained by Philip DePaul '03, placed sixth overall and team members Michele Frangella '05 ("All-Ithaca Witness") and Tiffany Shapiro '03 ("All Ithaca Attorney") received individual honors for their performances. The other team, whose captain is Bill Deluise '04, also did quite well, and Bill received honorable mention for his attorney role. Both teams finished with a 2-2 record, but fared extremely well against their future competitors at the Princeton Regional on February 21-22. Congratulations to both teams, and good luck at Princeton!

Affirmative Action In The Spotlight:

Grutter v. Bollinger

By: Elizabeth DiPardo

Affirmative action is a phrase with which all students are familiar. President John F. Kennedy first coined this term in the early 1960s, and later, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 contained a section which forbid discrimination based on "race, color, sex, or national origin" in the workplace. From that point on many affirmative action programs began, in hopes, to prevent discrimination and allow people from certain backgrounds more access to jobs, education, and government that had previously been unavailable to them. Ever since its introduction in American society, affirmative action has never been clearly defined and consequently caused many debates.

In recent years affirmative action seemed to drop out of the national spotlight, but debate has begun again. The case, *Grutter v. Bollinger* addresses a topic important to each student reading this newsletter, admittance to law school. This case, number 02-241, has reached the Supreme Court and has a trial date set for April 1, 2003. The Supreme Court agreed to hear this cases and in a few months will decide "whether affirmative action programs in the nation's universities should continue to help minorities, or whether they represent reverse discrimination" (William Mears CNN).

Grutter v. Bollinger is not a new case. As with many cases appearing before the Supreme Court of the United States it began several years ago in 1995. The plaintiff, Barbara Grutter applied to the University of Michigan Law School in order to begin her legal education. UMichigan's law school is a prominent school in the United States, ranked #7, and boasts admission statistics of a 3.37 to

3.71 GPA and average LSAT scores ranging from 164-168. The school's student population in recent years has been 63% Caucasian. Grutter's application to law school caused her to be wait-listed and later rejected. Following her rejection, Ms. Grutter along with two other rejected applicants, filed suit against the University of Michigan Law School's former dean and current president of the undergraduate university, Lee Bollinger. They felt that they were rejected because of their race, Caucasian, and that unfair standards were used by the law school in order to admit lesser-qualified minority students. The Center for Individual Rights, a public interest law firm based in Washington, D.C., filed this suit on behalf these students. The suit claimed that their rejection violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act (mentioned above). The plaintiffs' goal is to have race consideration taken out of the application process.

UMichigan representatives assert that the school has the right and the responsibility to consider race in "order to pursue the educational benefits of diversity" (Mears CNN). At the time these cases began, the University of Michigan, both undergraduate and law school, used a point scale to rank candidates and aid in the admission process. Many minority groups were given substantial extra points based solely on their race. Since these cases were filed this policy has been discontinued.

Grutter v. Bollinger went before a federal appeals court in Detroit, Michigan, January 16, 2001 through February 16, 2001 with Judge Bernard Friedman presiding over the trial. At the end of this one month case the court maintained that the university had the right to use race as a mitigating factor in its admission process. *Grutter v. Bollinger* deals with law school admissions and a similar case, *Gratz v. Bollinger* accuses the Undergraduate Admissions

Program at the University of the same issues. Both cases are slated for presentation before the Supreme Court in early 2003.

Affirmative action in higher education is no longer allowed in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. Courts in these States claimed that affirmative action was contrary and not allowed under the Constitution because no one ethnic or racial group should be given preference over another. President Bush opposes affirmative action and yet at the same time has aided an increase in funding to historically Black colleges and universities throughout the United States. However, proponents of affirmative action include Colin Powell and organizations such as The Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action By Any Means Necessary (BAMN) and Law Students for Affirmative Action (LSAA). BAMN is currently circulating petitions and organizing a march on Washington DC for April 1, 2003 the date *Grutter v. Bollinger* is set to appear before the Supreme Court. They are urging Americans to "Defend Affirmative Action and Save *Brown v. Board of Education*." However, it is now out of local hands and up to the Supreme Court to establish a national standard for the use or disuse of affirmative action in higher education.

These cases raise interesting questions for America. Affirmative action began to correct injustices stemming from slavery and segregation; however, in 2003, is a policy such as affirmative action still necessary or has America evolved passed needing such a program? Are Caucasian students now facing what is known as reverse discrimination? As this case progresses through the legal system more updates will follow, but for now we future law school applicants are left with unsettled questions.

ATTN: JUNIORS AND SENIORS

Law School Application Schedule

junior year

Spring

1. Register with LSDAS.
2. Prepare for LSAT (Practice Tests, Course, Prep Book).
3. Plan to take LSAT in June- register by early May.
4. Read the Official Guide to U.S. Law Schools and consider the schools to which you might apply.
5. Think about who might write your faculty letters of reference.

Summer

1. Send transcript to LSDAS.
2. Decide on competitive, safety and long-shot schools to which you will apply.
3. Draft a generic personal statement.
4. If possible, visit the law schools that interest you.

senior year

January 15

- 1 Send transcript with fall grades directly to law schools

February 1 - April 1

- 1 Wait

April 1

1. Visit schools to which you have been admitted and send a deposit to one school only.
2. Update the schools at which you have been waitlisted on your latest GPA, honors, senior thesis, extracurricular activities, etc.

The Law School Application Schedule was developed by Associate Dean Joseph Burns, College of Arts and Sciences.

Looking Ahead...

Junior year can be an adjustment. I am living off campus this year, fully dependant on the COMM Ave Bus once again (how many Newton kids are reading this?) and at the mercy of my own cooking skills...or lack thereof. I realize that my time at BC will soon be coming to an end and I am eager to get a jump start on planning for the future! Law school! To say that I am not excited would be a lie because I *am* looking out at the future, wondering where I will be and what I will be doing. My mailbox on Orkney Road has seen the thick application materials and presented me with a variety of choices to consider. Eager to make the most of my

remaining years at BC, I set these mailings aside and carry on with my more immediate concerns, allowing the thick manila envelopes to gather dust in the corner of my room. It is easier to ignore them and assume that things will all work out, but sometimes it is difficult! Which classes should I take? How many times should I take the LSATs? Will I do well? What does a law school see as "good grades?" How do mine compare? These concerns sometimes haunt me at the most inopportune times in the day. It is difficult to be completely content in one location and yet very focused on where you will go next. My advise is to live each moment at BC and embrace the opportunities that you have right here...right now. It is easier said than done, however, and I am not the authority on

"pre-law" strategies, grades or actions.

I hope the Pre-Law Review will be a forum for Pre-Law students and other BC students to share their thoughts and concerns about law school, career and the application process. This is a newsletter intended for Pre-Law students. It is a document that will provide Pre-Law events, however, it can be tailored to suit your needs. The articles and interviews have been excellent so far and I know we are all benefiting from the school/class profiles and LSAT questions! **Please submit your suggestions, concerns, anticipations and successes stories!** **As always, I am eager to hear from you!**

Elizabeth Sartori, Editor

WAITING FOR DROP/ADD?

Check out these BC courses to Prepare for Law School

PL 264 Logic F/S

CL 010 Elementary Latin F/S

EN 412 Prose Writing F/S

MA 021 Financial Accounting F/S

MA 022 Managerial Accounting F/S

MF 021 Basic Finance F/S

CO 030 Public Speaking F/S

substantive areas of law and legal reasoning

MA 405 Federal Taxation F/S

MJ 021 Law I - Introduction to Law and Legal
Process F/S

MJ 022 Law II - Business Law F/S

MJ 148 International Law F/S

MJ 152 Labor and Employment Law F/S

MJ 154 Insurance F/S

MJ 156 Real Estate F/S

MJ 161 Corporate and S.E.C. Law F/S

CO 443 Ethical Consideration of the Mass Media
F/S

SC 423 Internships in Criminology II S

courses about law and the legal system

EC 353 Industrial Organization: Competition and
Antitrust S

PL 449 Corporations and Morality F/S

PS 039 Psychological Perspectives on Social
Justice S

CO 249 Communication Law S

SC 022 Sociology of Crime and Punishment F/S

SC 144 Legal and Illegal Violence Against
Women S

SC 030 Deviance and Social Control F/S

Keep The Dates..

MOCK TRIAL

- AMTA Regional at Princeton University
February 21st to February 23rd
- Silver National Competition in St Paul
Minnesota March 21st to March 23rd
- Gold National Competition in Des
Moines Iowa, April 3rd to April 6th

Good Luck!

