

The Bellarmine Pre Law Council

Pre-Law Review

September 2003

A Note from the President...

Dear Pre-Law Students,

Welcome to the new and improved face of Pre-Law at Boston College! Over the summer, the Pre-Law program underwent a great transformation; it is now more inclusive and sensitive to student needs than ever before. The Bellarmine Pre-Law Council (BPLC), the umbrella organization of Pre-Law at BC, hopes to provide an atmosphere of exploration, one in which all students not only have the opportunity to explore their LSAT preparation needs, but also to explore the world of law.

The BPLC is here for you, as a resource. With a focus on student-administration communication, the BPLC links the resources of the entire university with the undergraduate student body. These mailings, as well as our emails and postings on our website (www.bc.edu/bplc), are designed to help students in choosing law as a career or interest.

Expect to see the results of this effort in the form of *speakers* probing the possibilities and different avenues of law, better *workshops* dealing with how to improve your prospects for law school, and *free LSAT class* contests. Please watch your email accounts, check our website, and look for flyers around campus for upcoming events! I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events and happenings.

Sincerely,

Jon Messier

President,

Bellarmino Pre-Law Council

Please stop by our table at the Activities Fair (September 19) for information on our first speaker from Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.

Writers needed...

The Pre-Law Review is another resource that is available to Boston College students who are interested in pursuing both graduate study and careers in the field of law. The Review makes it possible for the Pre Law Council to keep members up to date on **test preparation opportunities, law school visits, admissions seminars and other Pre-Law events.** In addition, the editors hope that the Review will bring students different perspectives on **career choices, course selection and law school programs.** The paper invites students to bring their job and class experiences to the Pre Law students at Boston College. This can be achieved through short articles, interviews and glimpses into the lives and career paths of students, professors and other professionals in the field of law.

If you are interested in writing for the Pre Law Review or in finding out more about the publication, please contact one of the editors! Hope to hear from you soon!

Elizabeth Sartori

sartorel@bc.edu

Ashly Hanna

hannas@bc.edu

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us by e-mail: bplc@bc.edu

We look forward to hearing from you!

JUNIORS and SENIORS

SIGN UP FOR Law School Application Strategies Group Meetings **SIGN UP IN GASSON 106**

The Pre-Law Advisory Board will conduct group meetings to discuss different approaches to applying to law school. All students anticipating applying to law school should attend one of these meetings.

ALL OF THESE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN GASSON 105 (1 HOUR SESSIONS)

Friday	September 19, 2003	12 Noon
Tuesday	September 23, 2003	10:30 AM
Friday	September 26, 2003	10 AM
Tuesday	September 30, 2003	2 PM
Thursday	October 16, 2003	1 PM
Wednesday	October 22, 2003	2 PM
Tuesday	October 28, 2003	11 AM
Tuesday	November 4, 2003	12 Noon
Tuesday	November 11, 2003	11 AM

THESE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE CAREER CENTER RM 203 (1 HOUR SESSIONS)

Tuesday	September 16, 2003	7 PM
Tuesday	September 30, 2003	7 PM
Tuesday	October 7, 2003	7 PM
Tuesday	October 21, 2003	7 PM

PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOPS

(1 HOUR SESSIONS)

with Dean Carol Hurd Green

Wednesday, October 29, 2003 at 4:30 P.M.

Gasson 305

Thursday, November 6, 2003 at 4:30 P.M.

Gasson 305

LAW SCHOOL VISTS

Georgetown University Law School

Group Interview Sessions for Seniors

11:30 AM-12:30 PM Gasson 105

Dean Andy Cornblatt

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Boston College Law School

2 PM -3 PM

Devlin 010

Dean of Admissions,

Elizabeth Rosselot

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2003

BC MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

What *exactly* is "Mock Trial"?!?!?

Mock Trial is a student activity at Boston College designed to provide a forum for undergraduate BC students interested in learning about our legal system. Students are placed on individual teams and work during the year to prepare both the defense and the plaintiff/prosecution arguments, questions and witnesses based on the fact pattern we receive from the American Mock Trial Association. The BC Mock Trial teams compete at various intercollegiate competitions throughout the year, including the American Mock Trial Association's Regional Competitions held at other universities in the Northeast. All teams have a chance at competing in the National Tournaments held in St. Paul, MN and Des Moines, IA.

Mock Trial is the perfect activity for students interested in the field of law, or those that want to put their theatrical or debating talents to the test – student can participate as attorneys or witnesses (or both!), or take less theatrical roles as timekeepers or alternates.

Want to join Mock Trial?

Students interested in participating in Mock Trial, or students with questions, should contact Hale, the Mock Trial Coordinator, by emailing her at bcmocktrial@bc.edu or by calling her at 6-4722

A sneak peek at this year's case....

State of Midlands v. Michael W. Harmon

Case Summary – *Tony Sturmanis was a rising star in the world of professional hockey. Tony Sturmanis and Michael Harmon were both participants in the May 7, 2003 North American Hockey Association hockey game between Midlands and Florida. Tragically, Sturmanis was killed during this playoff game in Midlands City following a fight with Harmon. Harmon struck Sturmanis in the head with a hockey stick. Harmon's wife, Victoria, had recently been romantically linked to Sturmanis. Harmon also lost a lucrative contract to Sturmanis just hours before the confrontation during the game. Harmon was later indicted on three counts of homicide – Murder, Manslaughter, and Negligent Homicide.*

Witnesses – *Michael W. Harmon, Professional Hockey Player, Defendant*

Victoria Harmon, Professional Hairdresser and Harmon's former spouse

Lt. Pat Bivens, Detective, Midlands City Police Department

Jean-Marie Baptiste, Professional Hockey Referee

Topaz Cash, Sports Agent

Dr. Dana Quincy, Midlands Pathologist

Dr. Tracy Carver, Neurologist

Dr. J.P. Boyd, Owner of Midlands City Marauders Hockey Team

So you're taking the LSAT in October: Some Advise from the Career Center

Testwiseness - Some Pointers

1. Prepare to concentrate immediately, intensely, steadily, and to your utmost. The passive test-taker gets nowhere. There's no time to reread. Attack the problem actively the first time around. And be in condition to keep this up for 3 1/2 hours.
 2. Take time to understand the directions. You're being tested on following difficult and unexpected directions. Pay particular attention to the exact wording of definitions. Some of these are very strange, too.
 3. Don't misread, don't skim, don't "speed-read." The time pressure comes from the required speed of thinking, not of reading. Read carefully for exact wording, exact meaning. Underline key words.
 4. Never Answer From Your Own Knowledge or Experience-that's not what's being tested. Never answer from your own opinions or prejudices, or because you think one answer is more socially acceptable than another. (You'll often be invited to do that.)
 5. Read Nothing Into Any Problem. Deal only with what has actually been said. Beware of thinking you recognize what's going to be said ("Oh, I know that.") because chances are good that you'll miss the actual point. Don't get involved with what you think must also be true, or must also have happened, unless you've been asked to do that. If "if's" and "but's" come into your mind, forget them.
 6. Omit Nothing From Any Problem. Read all the options. Read every sentence in the stimulus material. It's true you're sometimes given irrelevant material, but don't dismiss it until you've actually assessed it in terms of what you've been asked.
7. Work With The Test, Not Against It.
- Work steadily and methodically. Have a method of attack on each type of problem. Avoid galloping off bareback. (Remember the hare and the tortoise.)
 - Use the Four Important Points to Remember listed above. Taken together, they tell you the following: work as fast as possible consistent with accuracy; don't allow yourself to get stuck on any question; don't rush to get the harder problems, thus possibly missing easy ones, since they all count the same; guess where necessary; and Leave No Blanks!!
 - One, and only one, of these options is correct in terms of the question. Accept this; don't fight it. All problems have been thoroughly tested. Every word is there on purpose, and every needed word has been included. Ambiguities are deliberate, and a solution has been supplied.
 - Avoid oversubtlety - don't make the test harder than it is. (People who fight certain questions, as in point c above, tend to be oversubtle.)
 1. As you select answers, be aware that one of the benchmarks of the good, professionally written question is the frequent presence of an option that is almost, but not quite, right: the "attractive" distracter.
 - Keep track of time but don't be possessed by it. Resist pressure by working at the fastest pace that is productive for you. Many people don't finish. The score comes from getting questions right, not just from getting them answered, and a correct guess is as good as a right answer, whether you like it or not.
 - Don't waver about guessing. Decide quickly, once you recognize the possibility. Then do it and forget about it. There is no pattern of right answers, so it doesn't matter what option you pick. Don't sit there wondering if you could answer it if you took more time; you've already taken too much time if you worked long enough to get stuck.
 - In general, try to take the questions in order, but that's Not a hard-and-fast rule. Your main concern is maximizing your score by getting questions right, so it often pays to skip around, locating the types of questions you personally favor. Just make sure you get back to the others.
 - Manage the Answer Sheet. Avoid stupid, nerve-wracking mistakes such as getting answers in the wrong column (picking A but marking B) or reversing the wrong number (answering #22 in slot #23). This is more common than you might believe. Have a System. And to insure yourself against panic if you do catch yourself misplacing answers, always mark you answers in your test booklet before transferring them to the answer sheet.

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

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- Finally, do try to keep a sense of proportion. This test is a difficult and important set of games. It's not a final judgment about your worth as a person or your potential as a law student. You're not the only one, by any means, who makes a lot of mistakes or who might not finish all sections. Don't waste time during the test worrying about things like that. Just do your job and take the test.
- Based on material originally prepared by Dorothy Clerk.