

[ GALLERY ]

## Pratt N. Wiley '06

Georgetown University graduate.  
President, BC Law Students  
Association.

### WHY DID YOU RUN FOR LSA PRESIDENT?

Anyone who has spent more than ten minutes with me knows that politics is in my blood, but I actually had a lot of reservations about running for student office. I didn't know if the job was something I wanted to do or if I could do it well, but because I had worked as a university administrator prior to law school, I started to see the position as an opportunity to fill the void between students and administration. I knew I would be an effective advocate because I understood the issues and constraints that each side faces and how the LSA could set and achieve realistic goals. And, of course, I've been designing my campaign since I was eight years old.

### WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST OVERRATED VIRTUE?

Affirmation. We too often put emphasis on the outcome rather than the process. Some things in life will go wrong no matter how carefully you plan, but you can't let that fear dictate every step you take. It goes back to not being afraid to fail. If you know what the worst-case scenario is and can accept it, it's so much easier to dust yourself off and get back in the game if you stumble along the way.

### WHAT IS ONE OBJECT YOU ALWAYS CARRY WITH YOU?

A lapel pin engraved with the Presidential Seal. I had the opportunity to meet George H.W. Bush many years ago, and when he gave it to me he said, "You can give me yours when you're the President." The pin serves as a reminder to me to think and dream big.

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## Behind the Columns

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of legal education, identify the problems, propose solutions, debate them, and reach a consensus. (I must confess that there was a shadow discussion on the associate deans' listserv among people who *really* know what they are talking about, and that the deans were counseled about what to say.) We could then post the solution in the electronic town square so everyone could see it. We did all this in three days. In old-fashioned hierarchical structures, achieving that kind of speed is the stuff of legend. (Think of George Patton moving the Third Army 100 miles in three days to attack Bastogne.)

The other story is a more familiar one. It's about how the staff at Boston College Law School invited, received, and settled a group of new students in the blink of an eye. On September 1—the day we posted the solution on the AALS website—I met with the Law School's deans and directors to plan our part. By the end of that day, we had received more than 100 inquiries. On September 2 we admitted 23 students. That was Friday of Labor Day weekend. When school opened the following Tuesday, we registered seven students (six from Tulane and one from Loyola), and they began their classes. Let me say that again, in case you are not sufficiently impressed. In two working days we designed a system for visitors from New Orleans, took applications, admitted students, enrolled them, registered them in classes, and put them to work.

The staff made this look easier than it was. And they had help from everyone in the community. All the students had some connection with Massachusetts (siblings, family, a fiancée), but only two were natives. Alumni offered places to live. Parents and faculty made contributions to the Law School Fund to pay for clothing, school supplies, and household necessities. The Law Student Association collected donations from more than 150 students, ranging from housing to clothing to computers to books. As one of the visiting students said, "Everyone here has been really great. The welcoming atmosphere at BC has really helped make the transition easier."

## Gallery

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*What word or phrase do you most overuse?*  
"Hi. My name is Pratt!" Just kidding. That question requires far more self-awareness than I have.

*What was the topic of your Law School application essay?*

How I've known since I was thirteen that I didn't want to be a lawyer. The law has been part of our family for a long time, but I was sure it wasn't for me. I planned to go to business school, but a mentor advised me to first take time to work jobs that offered the opportunity to develop the skills I needed for where I wanted to be. A few years later, I sat down and evaluated how far I had come. When I looked at my list of what I could do and what I still needed to learn, I realized that if I went to business school, I would get better only at the things I was already good at. I decided to apply to law school because it would challenge me to forge strength from my weaknesses.

*If you weren't in Law School, where would you be now?*

It's hard to predict. People tend to view their careers in a linear matter, but it's really more like a pinball game than Dominoes. My mentor gave me the confidence to take risks and forge a unique path, and I try to look at each step as an opportunity to grow and develop no matter where it may take me.

*By what motto would you choose to define yourself?*

"Why not?" I think it sums up my personal philosophy and approach to life. But I would write it in Latin so it looked cooler.

—Kristine Povilaitis '07

## Policing Corporate Boards

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misconduct. Studies show that confronting people with evidence of their own hypocrisy can create the sort of dissonance that leads to lasting behavioral change. The observation suggests that critical feedback from credible experts such as judges and specialized enforcement agencies can provide a crucial external check that should help keep social norms of corporate executives better aligned with the values of broader society.

*Professor Renee Jones has been appointed the Eugene P. Beard Faculty Fellow in Ethics at Harvard University's Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics for the 2005-2006 academic year. The center's faculty fellowships support outstanding teachers and scholars who study ethical problems in business, law,*

*medicine, government, and public policy. Jones is one of five faculty fellows selected from a pool of applicants from universities throughout the United States and other countries. She is spending the year at Harvard's Kennedy School where she is participating in a weekly seminar for fellows that discusses problems in teaching and research in ethics. She is also devoting a significant part of her time to work on the project described in the accompanying article.*

## The Moral Side of Trade

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"One of the goals of the conference was to help church leaders link general concerns about justice and solidarity with actual policies, practices, and institutions of globalization. The hope is that they will be able to take a position, given their values and concerns, about some more or less desirable aspects of trade policy and thus serve as a resource to mobilize the people they speak for."

One role of bishops, especially those in Latin America, is to serve as advocates for social justice and speak on behalf of segments of society that aren't well represented. "The Catholic church is still a relatively powerful voice, but they haven't always used that opportunity wisely," said Garcia. "There are many people who want to see the church speak more progressively, and because Latin American bishops are responsible for social justice in their respective dioceses, it is important for them to be able to link that concern with policies on globalization and trade. In that sense, they need to be able to work like any other NGO [non-governmental organization]."

Though in the US the Catholic church has been fairly vocal on social issues, it has tended to be conservative in supporting the ruling class in many Latin American nations, Garcia said. "Latin American society has been deeply unjust and unequal for centuries. There is a tradition of the church trying to comment on social and economic issues, but what is changing is the world, and in that sense, globalization is a new opportunity for them to look at questions about economic justice," he explained.

Since the primary focus of Garcia's book was to persuade the field that economic justice is closely related to international trade, he viewed the conference as a unique opportunity to work with an institution that has already made this assumption.