

A Brilliant Calculation

THE CLASS OF 2014
REALLY ADDS UP



Let's hear it for the Class of 2014—all 268 of them. The students hail from 33 states and 122 colleges and universities, average 24 years in age, and include 5 National Merit Scholars, 1 Fulbright, and 11 Phi Beta Kappas; 23 already have advanced degrees and 100 speak at least one foreign language, perhaps the rarest among them being Telugu and Pulaar.

The new class is 47 percent women, 53 percent men, and 24 percent students of color. The media GPA is 3.66 and the median LSAT is 165.

But a class is more than numbers. These 1Ls put their minds, hearts, and bodies to work in a variety of ways

before coming to law school.

One founded and directed the Serbian American Medical Association in Washington, DC, uniting physicians and health professionals in the US and Serbia to bring medical relief to underserved areas in war-torn Bosnia. Another is a proud member of the Lady Leathernecks, or female Marines, who comprise just 6 percent of the corps. Still another was the Assistant Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Seoul.

Many have known success in the fields of music and sports. One earned the Tanglewood Music Center violin prize and was a Tokyo Vivaldi Ensemble soloist. Athletes include an internationally licensed sailor, a member of the Quarry Cats United Women's Hockey League team, and a former member of the US Figure Skating team.

In a field by himself is a Cirque de Soleil-trained clown.

But perhaps no one is more representative of the cultural diaspora than the student who said, I am "ethnically Latvian, Basque, Norwegian, and Native American...I identify as both immigrant and American."

FIRST PERSON SINGULAR

"I hope that another budding attorney has read my blog and felt a sense of comfort by knowing that someone else in the same boat experienced similar sentiments. I hope that a seasoned attorney read an entry or two and was brought back to how he or she felt and thought as a young attorney. I hope it bridged a gap by resonating with green and experienced alike. Most of all, I hope that you've enjoyed reading about my time at BC LAB as much as I enjoyed being there."

—Anusia Hirsch '13, blogging about her 2L summer at BC's LAB (read more at <http://bclabstudent.wordpress.com>).

President, Black Law Students Association; secretary, Business and Law Society; executive coordinator, Students of Color Retreat Planning Committee; staff writer, *Boston College Law Review*. At UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where she earned a BS in financial economics), vice president, Student Government Association.

AS AN UNDERGRADUATE AND LAW STUDENT, WHY HAVE YOU GRAVITATED TOWARD LEADERSHIP ROLES?

I am the type who gets involved in whatever community I'm a part of. I like helping others and it gives me a right to complain about things—a right I don't have if I'm sitting on the sidelines—and to try to fix them.

WHY DID YOU TO TAKE UP DIVERSITY AS A CAUSE?

I went to a diverse undergraduate institution, so diversity wasn't in the forefront of my mind until I became a part of the legal community. I am one of fourteen black persons in a class of 261; the only black person from my class on the *Boston College Law Review*. I've sat through classes where minority students hesitated to say things about race because they didn't want to be the token. It was eye-popping to me, and I wanted to work on the issue. It's not just a BC problem, it's a legal profession problem.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO CHANGE THINGS?

I'm working to set up more mentoring, academic, networking, and professional development programs for students of color. Some feel isolated. Many didn't have access to these resources before they came to law school—they don't have lawyers in the family and are culturally very different. I want to ensure all students of color feel supported at BC.

WHAT'S BEEN THE IMPACT OF THE 1L STUDENTS OF COLOR RETREAT?

When I attended as a 1L, the retreat felt more like a social event. I thought it would be more beneficial to focus on the school experience: strategies for class, what tests look like, how to network. It was tough because when planning the retreat for the Class of 2014, I was asserting my ideas to the retreat committee and a little voice was asking me, "Why are you so sure about this? You're not an expert on diversity." But we did it, and afterwards the response was overwhelmingly positive.

BSLA HELD A "PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE" LAST FALL. WHAT WAS THAT?

We wanted to foster a broad conversation about what privilege means in a law school environment. Personally, I've felt that people who have parents who are lawyers are very privileged. But there are other factors that students feel determine privilege: socioeconomic status, religion, and gender, for instance. It was a way to bring into the open the conversations that were going on here on the sidelines.

WHAT ABOUT AFTER LAW SCHOOL?

I'm interested in corporate law, and intend to practice in Boston. I was fortunate to work at Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge (now Edwards Wildman Angell) my first summer. I met fantastic people, was exposed to transactional work, and solidified my desire to work in private practice. This summer I will be at Goodwin Procter. I chose that firm for the same reasons I chose BC: It has a fantastic reputation, I feel well supported, and there are people who are personally invested in my career.

Interviewed by Vicki Sanders

