SURVEY Results: Mental Health at CLS

The results are in, and the implications are undeniable. Virtually half the 100 respondents said that they are not familiar with the resources of Columbia’s Counseling & Psychological Services (CPS), and exactly half said that they would be more likely to make use of CPS if they were to offer law school-specific office hours essentially onsite. Currently, CPS offers weekly office hours at several other schools and residence halls at the University. Student Senate has been looking into bringing an analogous program to the Law School.

Are you currently aware of the services offered by CPS?

Yes: 52
No: 48

Would you be more likely to make use of a counselor from CPS if CPS were to offer weekly law school-specific office hours in a private area of Wien Hall, the building right next to Jerome Greene (as opposed to having to go over to Lerner on the University's Main Campus)?

Yes: 50
No: 50

Dean Responds to Receptionist Resolution and Report. Senate sent a copy of the resolution and an accompanying report (available at our website under the Feb. 11 Meeting Materials) to the Administration on Feb. 17. CLS Dean David Schizer responded promptly, thanking Senate “for these thoughtful recommendations.” He continued, “There are budgetary implications, as you can imagine, but you make a useful case about the value of such a step, and we will consider this further.”

Legal Practice Workshop Focus Group Report Released. A Senate-spurred focus group of 12 1Ls met earlier this month to discuss their experience of the LPW program, so as to aid the faculty in improving LPW in future years. Prof. Philip Genty, who heads the program, sanctioned the focus group, and his faculty assistant facilitated the meeting. The report is available for review at:

The CLS Black Letter

A Student Senate Publication

Week of February 24, 2008

Vol. I, Iss. 21

Your 2007-2008 Student Senate

Please contact us with questions or concerns! We are working hard to represent you.

E-mail us at senate@law.columbia.edu, and visit us at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/.

Executive Board
Tope Yusuf, President
Dan Y. Shin, Vice President
Max Miller, Treasurer
Gabriel Gershowitz, Secretary
Kathrin Schweginger, Parliamentarian

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Kirstin Nijburg
Francesco Pezone
Ke Zhu

* University Senator
** ABA Representative

Senate Committees
www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/committees.html

Budget.
Max Miller, chair.
Community Action.
Gabriel Gershowitz, chair
Computers, IT, & Library.
Benjamin Brickner & David Peters, co-chairs
Graduation.
Shawndra Jones & Devora Whitman, co-chairs
Housing & Facilities.
Ryan Russell, chair
Recognition.
Kathrin Schweginger, chair
Student Issues & Academic Affairs.
Tope Yusuf, chair
Student Life & Social Activities.
Dan Y. Shin, chair

Senate Business

The full Student Senate typically meets every other Monday at 9:10 PM in JGH 105. Meetings are generally open to the entire student body. Our next meeting will take place this Monday, February 25, 2008.

Agenda for Meeting of February 25, 2008

I. Roll Call
II. Officer Reports
III. Committee Reports
IV. Student Recognition Request: “Columbia Law Duke Society”
V. Ad Hoc Funding Request: Law Students for Life event, $1,000
VI. Grad Ball Low Income Subsidy Resolution
VII. Room Reservations Resolution
VIII. Announcements
IX. Adjourn

Resolution to Allocate General Funds to Ease the Financial Burden of Attending Grad Ball 2008 for Students Accepting Low-Income Jobs

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News & Notes

CLS has announced a tremendously-improved Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) for those pursuing public interest legal careers, starting with those graduating this year. Under LRAP, CLS graduates have their student debt forgiven if they work in public interest or government jobs for a specified period of time. According to Dean David Schizer, CLS was the first U.S. law school to establish an LRAP program, in 1983, and now it has one of the best, with the highest income threshold of any school in the nation. In addition to doubling the income threshold, loans will be forgiven more quickly, beginning five years after graduation; an adjustment for the spouse's educational debt will be made in calculating household income; parental leave benefits will be provided for up to six months; and benefits will be available to graduates working part-time to care for children. You can read more about the changes in an article by Taylor Napolitano in a front page story in the February 22, 2008, edition of the Columbia Daily Spectator, available at http://www.columbiaspectator.com/node/29479.

Upcoming Event: “Transitioning from a Legal Career to a Non-Legal Career.” On Monday, March 3rd, from 4 to 5 pm in the Jerome Greene Annex, representatives from NBA Entertainment, Lehman Bros., Citigroup, and McKinsey will discuss the transition out of a law firm and into a business career.

Upcoming Event: “Breaking Up is Hard to Do: Issues of Museum Deaccessioning.” On Tuesday, March 11th, at 6 pm in JGH 103 the Kernochan Center for Law, Media & the Arts will present “Breaking Up is Hard to Do: Issues of Museum Deaccessioning.” Panelists will discuss why some of the country’s museums are trying to deaccession portions of their collections, and why challengers allege the sales are unethical and even illegal. The program will address whether it is appropriate for museums and/or non-profits to sell off art and cultural property, and the uses to which these institutions may (and may not) put the proceeds. In addition, the program will inquire into deaccessioning’s consequences to the institutions and to the broader communities that they serve. In addition to the Kernochan Center, the evening is sponsored by the Center for Art and Cultural Heritage Law and the Horace S. Manges Lecture and Conference Fund.

Applications are available for the 2008 Irell & Manella Prize for outstanding leadership and good citizenship. The 2008 recipient of the Irell & Manella Prize will receive a cash award of $3,000. The CLS student organization of the recipient's choice will receive an additional cash award of $3,000. The Prize is open to CLS 1L students whose outstanding leadership and good citizenship helped to create a sense of community and engagement among his/her peers during the first year of law school. The application can be downloaded from http://www.law.columbia.edu/irellmanellaprize. Completed and signed applications are due by April 30, 2008, to: Patricia Berry, Columbia Law School, Jerome Greene Hall | 435 W. 116th St, Box A-2 | NYC 10027 The Irell & Manella Prize Screening and Selection Committee will review applications and make an award determination that will be announced in September 2008. Incomplete applications or applications without original signatures will not be accepted.
This Week at CLS  
February 25 - March 2, 2008

Monday
- Outlaws: “Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Perspectives from the Inside.” 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 102.  
  Box lunch served.
- Student Senate Meeting. 9:10 PM; JG105.

Tuesday
- OWLS/SWIFT: Student-Parent Support Group. 12:15 - 1:00 PM; WJW 417. Lunch served.
- Student Services: Mandatory 3L Graduation Meeting. 12:20 - 1:00 PM; JG104.
- “Jessica Gonzales v. United States: An emerging model for domestic violence and human rights advocacy.” 12:10 - 1:00 PM; WJW 103. Lunch served.
- CLWA: Work Life Balance Panel. 6:00 - 8:00 PM; JG 104. Wine & cheese reception after.

Wednesday
- MESO: Film Festival, Tsotsi. 6:30 PM; JG 106.

Thursday
- “Damages,” Mark Kantor. 12:05 - 1:05pm; WJW 103
- Quizzo. 7:00 - 9:00 PM; Lenfest Café.
- Senate: Graduation Event—Bowling. 8:00 - 10:00 PM; Harlem Lanes. $10 for 2 hours of fun! Tickets on sale this week in JG Lobby.

Friday
- Student Services: Mandatory LLM Graduation Meeting. 12:30 - 1:00 PM; JG104.

Saturday & Sunday
- All quiet on the weekend front.

Event information is taken from the Advisor, a Student Services e-publication. To have your event listed, follow the link below and submit the on-line form. These must be submitted by 10 am on Thursday, the week BEFORE your event.  