Message from the CLS Senate President

Dear CLS,

Your new Senate Executive Board is excited to serve you during the 2008-09 academic year. We’ve already begun to identify priorities and discuss how the Senate can continue to serve the law school community. So far, our priorities for next year include:

- Helping the new Diversity Council gain traction as an effective forum to address diversity issues
- Creating a student role in the faculty hiring process
- Strengthening student-alumni relations
- Improving Career Services programming

With your help, we can achieve these goals. We are eager to hear your feedback on these and other issues you’d like the Senate to address in the coming year. Please e-mail us any time at senate@law.columbia.edu with your thoughts, concerns, or suggestions. We look forward to a great year!

Max Miller ’09

Official Senate Announcements

Bagels! Brownies! Strawberries! Stop by to grab breakfast on us from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Monday outside of JGH 104. This event is brought to you in part by Emanuel Bar Review.

VOTE! University Senate Runoff Election; Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. JGH 104. Help elect the next Law School representative to the University Senate! Candidates statements are available at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/elections.html. The University Senator serves a two-year term ending May 2010 and also serves as a Law School Student Senator. The University Senate is Columbia’s policy-making body and addresses inter-school issues, including all general faculty and student affairs. Additional information is available at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/senate/information/intro.htm.

Last Issue! This is the final issue of The CLS Black Letter for the 2007-2008 academic year. Good luck with finals, congrats to all our graduating schoolmates, and see the rest of you back here in the fall!

Lawyer Links of the Week¹

1) As you start outlining and studying for finals, we hope this law student-friendly flow chart helps with the process: http://www.mymilliondollaryear.com/blog/mymiscellaneousstuff/the-procrastination-flowchart.
2) Some things to keep in mind for 3Ls as you begin your legal careers, and for the rest of us for our summers and our future curricular planning: http://mesweeney.net/links/lists/16E.Noakes.html.

¹ “[T]he Week” only signifies this, and not necessarily any other, week.
Week of April 27, 2008

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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
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Jessica Isokawa, Secretary
Benjamin Brickner, Parliamentarian

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

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Housing & Facilities.
Chair vacant
Newsletter.
Chair vacant
Recognition.
Benjamin Brickner, chair
Student Issues & Academic Affairs.
Max Miller, chair
Student Life & Social Activities.
William Leavitt, chair

Senate Business

No business.

Lobby Days (continued from p. 3)

though the Hill is literally swarming with lobbyists, the impact that veterans’ stories had on congresspeople and their staffers was remarkable,” said Jeremy. Sarah Hinger ’09 added, “It was great being able to work together and bring our different resources to the effort.”

Still, many hurdles remain. A bill to repeal DADT has so far only been introduced in the House, and the majority of co-sponsors are Democrats. For the repeal to succeed, bipartisan support is needed. However, many Republican congressmen expressed a need to defer to the military, and Sen. John McCain, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is opposed to the repeal.

Nevertheless, students left CLS’s second annual Lobby Days trip hopeful and energized. For many students, gaining insight into the lobbying process was educational as well as gratifying. “Lobby Days was one of the best experiences I’ve had at CLS thus far,” said David Pennington ’10.

Others expressed gratitude that LGBT civil rights issues enjoy such broad support at CLS. As Outlaws President, I extend special thanks to the students who lobbied and to the administration. We are grateful for all the support that we have received from Columbia, and hope that our participation in Lobby Days continues until Don’t Ask Don’t Tell is repealed.
News & Notes

PILF writes: Stressed about finals? Need a study guide? Come to the NEW PILF bookstore this week to buy study guides for only $10 each! We’ll be open Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The PILF bookstore is now located in Room 101C in the lobby of Wien Hall, behind Jerome Greene Hall. PILF accepts ONLY cash and checks. We do not accept credit cards. Come early to ensure your study guides will still be there! Also, don’t forget to donate your books when you’re done with them! The dropbox is located just outside JGH 106.

Student Services writes: Looking for a place for either quiet or group study? Light snacks will be served! GOOD LUCK WITH FINALS!

- Monday, April 28:
  - Quiet Study  JG 101  5:00 PM – 11:00 PM
  - Group Study  JG 102  5:00 PM – 11:00 PM

- April 29 – May 15:
  - Quiet Study  JG 102  5:00 PM – 11:00 PM
  - Group Study  JG 103  5:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Y’allSA writes: Y’allSA hosted the 1st Annual Bourbon Tasting this past Friday, April 25th. Y’allSA Co-Chair Brandon Caire ’08 presided over a wide-ranging discussion of bourbon-making processes, business practices, federal regulations, and the Iron Bowl. The tasting included Woodford Reserve, Bulleit, Knob Creek, Booker's, and Jim Beam. Y’allSA looks forward to welcoming Southerners from all states and nations at the 2nd Annual Bourbon Tasting next year.

Law Revue writes: Law Revue closed out the semester with “Waiting for Roberts,” their 52nd show. Well-attended by both students and faculty, it featured video cameos from Dean Schizer, Michael Dorf, Robert Ferguson, and Elizabeth Grainger, as well as live cameos from Barbara Schatz and Avery Katz. The usual parody and inebriation were also accompanied by a poignant tribute to Michael Dorf, as well as a farewell number for the Law Revue 3Ls. Don’t miss your chance to join Law Revue at the beginning of next semester!

Notes from the Field: Lobbying for LGBT Civil Rights on Capitol Hill

by Chinyere Ezie ’10

Last month, 22 students traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby for the repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” (DADT), 10 U.S.C. § 654, a federal statute that institutes a policy of sexual orientation discrimination in the military. The law requires the military to deny employment to persons known to be lesbian, gay or bisexual, and to discharge LGBT service members if their orientation is discovered.

Although there is no constitutional right to serve in the military, those who serve regard it as a calling of the highest order. For CLS students, meeting LGBT veterans who were discharged after as much as 25 years of service crystallized the significance of the issue.

“Since I’ve never considered joining the military, I initially felt somewhat removed from the issue,” said Jeremy Vogel ’10. “However, it was incredibly powerful meeting gay and lesbian ex-servicepersons for whom service wasn’t just a job, but a passionate commitment they are pained to be apart from.”

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) leads the national lobbying effort to repeal DADT. As participants in the annual SLDN Lobby Days, students, veterans, and constituents met with legislators and staffers in small groups. The diverse perspectives struck a chord with legislators, and one representative even agreed to sign on as a co-sponsor of H.R. 1246, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, a bill that would end sexual orientation discrimination in the military.

This success was the product of the dynamic collaboration between students and veterans. “Even

Lobby Days continued on p. 2.
This Week at CLS
April 28 – May 4, 2008

Monday
• Senate: Bagels & Brownies. 9:00 - 11:00 AM; outside JG 104.
• Senate: University Senator Elections. 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM; outside JG 104.

Tuesday
• “Holocaust Denial: A New Form of Anti-Semitism,” Dr. Deborah Lipstadt. 7:00 PM; Rennert Hall in Hillel (606 W. 115th Street between Broadway and Riverside).

Wednesday
• Study.

Thursday
• Study.

Friday
• First day of finals!

Saturday
• Study.

Sunday
• Two days left for 1Ls—remain calm!

GOOD LUCK ON FINALS
AND HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

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 10am on Thursday, the week BEFORE your event. http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/studentorgs_abc/studentorgevent/eventform.