Justice O’Connor Coming to CLS

The Honorable Sandra Day O’Connor, retired associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, will be visiting our fair law school from November 12 through November 13, 2007.

Justice O’Connor will deliver the Harold Leventhal lecture on Monday, November 12th, at 5:00 PM. She will meet in an informal session with a smaller group of students the following morning at 9:30 AM. Students who are interested in meeting Justice O’Connor and participating in this discussion will be able to participate in a lottery organized by the Dean of Students. Stay posted for details as they become available.

Justice O’Connor retired from the bench in January 2006, after serving over 24 years on the Supreme Court.

Official Senate Announcements

Open Forum. The Senate will hold a town hall meeting to discuss the 2007 graduation ball debt on September 20 at 12:30 PM in Jerome Greene Hall, Room 102. There have been several inquiries from students regarding this matter since we announced the situation, and we invite the student body to attend this forum to have any lingering questions answered.

Senate Bulletin Board. We welcome you to post upcoming events that may be of interest to the general student body on the large desk calendar on our bulletin board (JGH east hallway).

Senate Bulletin Board II. Please share your comments and questions with us. There is a manilla envelope on our bulletin board in which you can place your thoughts on how we can improve the state of our school.

News & Notes

New Orleans Public Defender on campus. The Office of the Orleans Public Defender (OPD) has been completely rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina, and is looking for a diverse applicant pool for the 2008 hiring season. Come learn more at an info session on Monday, 9/17, at 12:20 pm in 103 Big Warren. If you are interested in public defense work, consider interviewing with OPD for either post-graduate attorney positions or summer internships. Interview sessions follow from 1:30 to 4:30 pm in 302 Little Warren. There are still interview slots available at 1:30, 2:00, and 2:30. If interested, please email katie.brethel@law.columbia.edu. (1Ls cannot sign up for interview slots but are welcome to attend the general information session.)

Public Contract Law Writing Contest. Winner will received $1,000 and the second place winner will receive $500. Application deadline: September 30, 2007. Visit pclj.org/Writing Competitions/Writing_Competition.html.

ABA Division for Public Service 2008 Summer Clerkship. The ABA Division for Public Service in Washington DC is seeking law clerks with exceptional research and writing skills (continued on p. 3)
III. Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure. Awesome role play. Snapping – signals agreement with the previous comment. Try to have a speaker finish his/her thought before interjecting with a point of information or point of procedure, even though for these, as for seconding a motion, you need not be recognized. Question – does Tope have to recognize someone before they speak? Yes, unless it is one of the above exceptions or calling to question.

IV. Budget Guidelines Approval. Max introduces budget guidelines – they are similar to last year’s, with two substantive changes: Section 4, subsection 4, now states that publicity for events sponsored even in part for Senate contain language to the effect that the budget committee may subject a group to higher scrutiny for future events if they do not advertise properly; Subsection 7 says that if there are surpluses or event cancellations, the budget committee may increase its scrutiny on a group should a group not notify the committee of any surplus or cancellation. Q&A. One question is why we need the “Senate helped fund this” language at all. MMM answers that it is so people know student group isn’t funding it privately; it makes people feel good that their SAF is going to good purpose. Shandra – how is budget committee going to police this? MMM – committee members, Senators will be vigilant. Simrin – how will groups know about these changes? Informational problems may exist in this whole process. MMM – it will be sent to student body after approved; also, new leaders are and will be informed about the changes. Aiden – does the phrase assume Senate wholly funds an event? MMM – good question – MMM would be friendly to an amendment that clarified whole or partial nature of funding. Ashley – if student group gets core funding, do they have to advertise for events? MMM – this language applies only to event funding. David – can we compel groups to let Senate know of their events in advance so we can put them in the CLS Black Letter? Craig says it is required if you reserve a room. JK3 moves to amend to reflect the “in part” language – the new language reads “in whole or in part” Amendment is seconded. Q&A – none. Debate on the amendment: Simrin – thinks that the “penalties” for changing events are bureaucratic and unrealistic. Max D. – let’s make the language simpler. Yaël – suggests taking out “this event” Rajiv – the language is too cumbersome. Max D. moves to amend the amendment to strike “in whole” Debate – MMM calls the question; call to question on amendment to amendment. Passes. Call to question on the amendment; vote on the amendment: amendment passes 35-7. Francesco moves to amend end of section 1 to require groups to specify the funding source of any budgetary appeal; amendment is not seconded. Debate on the resolution itself (guideline approved). Simrin does not think we need the language at all. David moves to amend the language to “this event supported by funds from the Student Activity Fee” Q&A on the amendment. Debate on the amendment: Rajiv – thinks the original language should remain. MAX – sponsored indicates financial support, which is accurate. Vote on the amendment: amendment fails. David moves to amend to require “at least 10 point font”. Amendment fails. Vote on the resolution: resolution passes as amended.

V. Debt Discussion. Question – what are steps and precautions that will be taken to avoid a similar problem occurring again? Max is working with Senate committee to make sure that internal Senate funds are dispersed appropriately. Question – is this debt negatively affecting this year’s graduation, and can any committee chair sign contracts with outside organizations? It should not, as long as the graduation committee sells enough tickets, which help cover the cost of the event. No, committee chairs are not to sign contracts with outside organizations. Question – how is the debt being compensated for? It is coming out of Senate internal funds, which would cover Senate events. In addition, the SAF increase helps to offset it. Question – why not balance the debt between Senate and student organization money? It should all come from the Senate funds because the debt is the Senate’s fault. Student groups should not suffer because of Senate internal mistakes. Are there procedural hurdles in place to prevent similar problems? Yes, there is now more oversight. What was the exact amount of shortfall? $32,322.80. Is there a way to better publicize exactly what happened, including the specific amount of debt? There may be; a forum may be the appropriate way to let the student body know what happened and ask questions. Alumni Relations and Student Services advised against constructing a detailed narrative with names and/or offices. Topo wants to know what Senators want in another e-mail:Numbers of money? No; Other things, like procedural safeguards? Yes. Yael moves to override the chair, which passes, and moves to ask the e-board to hold a forum to discuss the debt. Motion passes. Debate: David moves to amend to strike the forum shall be held for the student body on the matter of debt. Motion to call the question passes. Vote on this motion: amendment passes. Vote on the motion itself: Motion passes. A forum shall be held for the student body on the matter of debt! An e-mail will go out announcing the forum. Rajiv moves for an email, at e-board’s discretion, that announces the amount, source of the shortfall, time of repayment, impact of student group funding, etc. Motion fails.

VI. Announcements. Committee assignments will be circulated on the yahoo group, and committee chairs will be getting in touch shortly. We need a housing committee chair. If interested, please e-mail senate@law.columbia.edu. BBQ was a success. Senate dinner will be coming up in the next few weeks, details forthcoming.

VII. Adjourn at 11:40 PM.
Get to Know Your CLS

Spotlight on Harry Kavros

Harry Kavros is Associate Dean for Administration.

Q. How long have you been at CLS? Do you live in the neighborhood?
A. I've been here for five years, and marched in six graduations. After my first year I wanted to be able to walk to work, so I bought an apartment at the northwest corner of Central Park.

Q. What brought you to Columbia?
A. After returning from a (self-funded) two-year sabbatical, a friend in Human Resources at Columbia asked me to apply for a position that Dean Leebron had just created. Structurally it looked like the job I had had at the Ford Foundation, managing and coordinating several departments, connecting administration with the program side of the organization (faculty and students), and so on. Two or three hundred interviews later, I got the job.

Q. About what do students generally come to speak with you?
A. Students talk to me about how to improve the offices I manage (Student Services, Registration Services, International Programs, Graduate Legal Studies, Career Services, Center for Public Interest Law, Library, IT, and Educational Technology), counseling issues, issues with faculty and administrators, and many other things. I like to have lunches with small groups of students who represent student organizations, identity groups, and so on. Anyone should feel free to come to my office, and if you'd like to meet for lunch Elizabeth Grainger or Teba Besada can arrange it.

Q. What has been your favorite job, aside from your current one?
A. Being Associate Dean at Columbia is by far my favorite job. But I loved teaching, which I still do a bit here - I teach Literature-Humanities at Columbia. And I also deeply enjoyed living on Crete for a while in order to write a book about the culture of my grandparents. I did not enjoy working on Wall Street, but I'll get in trouble with Career Services if you tell them I said that.

Q. What is your favorite restaurant in the area?
A. Max Soha for Neapolitan food, but I'd also have to mention Taqueria Y Fonda La Mexicana, a small, family run, and very friendly place on Amsterdam and 107, with specialties from the region between Oaxaca and Puebla.

Q. Name something most people don't know about you?
A. I was an English professor, and wrote a dissertation on Shakespeare.

Q. What's one thing every CLS student should do before they graduate?
A. I'm afraid it's second nature for me to give homework assignments, so I'd say read Robert Cover's Justice Accused (and anything by Robert Ferguson). As a New Yorker, you should choose a neighborhood, walk around until you have the place in your feet, take in the architecture, and find a local ethnic mom and pop restaurant.
This Week at CLS
September 17 - 23, 2007

Monday
- Info Sesson: Office of the New Orleans Public Defender. 12:20 - 1:00 PM; WJW 103. (See News & Notes for more information, including on interviewing for positions.)
- Stone Moot Court Informational Meeting. 12:30 - 1:00 PM; JG 103.
- Columbia Law Review Publishable Notes Info Session. 12:30 - 1:00 PM; JG 105.
- CLS Faculty Panel on the Constitution. 4:30 - 6:00 PM; JG 103.
- Moot Court Electives Program. 5:30 - 7:00 PM; JG 106.

Tuesday
- Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN) Info Session. 12:30 - 1:00 PM; JG 502.
- CPIL Presents: "Innovators in Public Interest Law" discussion series—Sheena Wright '94, Abyssinian Development Corporation. 4:10 - 5:10 PM; WJW 103.
- ACS Moot Court info session w/dinner. 6:00 - 7:00 PM; JG 102.

Wednesday
- APALSA Study Tips Panel. 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 101.
- Environmental Moot Court Info Session. 12:30 - 1:15 PM; JG 105.
- Careers Orientation for 1Ls. 5:00 - 6:30 PM; Lerner Auditorium (at 115th and Broadway).
- Society for Chinese Law: Mid-Autumn Festival. 7:30 - 9:30 PM; Lenfest Cafe.

Thursday
- CPIL: Public Interest Job Strategy Session for 2Ls. 12:20 - 1:10 PM; WJW L104.
- An Introduction to International Development at Columbia. 5:00 - 6:30 PM; JG 103.
- Discussion: Turkey's EU Accession Process, Recent Political and Legislative Developments in Turkey and the Question of Turkey's Role in Europe. 6:00 - 9:00 PM; Association of the Bar of the City of New York (42 West 44th Street).

Friday & Saturday
- Your event here!

Sunday
- HSLI Teacher Training. 4:00 - 7:00 PM; JG 103.

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_abcs/studentorgevent/eventform