LAW SCHOOL NEWS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: 1L Professors (Barristers)

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In 2009, Diana Molek interviewed the first-semester 1L professors. I could find no record of her conducting a similar interview of second-semester professors, so I asked if they’d be willing to answer the same questions via e-mail or in an interview. Professor Hoffman and Dean Entin each granted an interview. Professor Webster replied in an email, which I have reprinted verbatim. (Thank you, Dean Entin, Prof. Hoffman, and Prof. Webster!) Civil Procedure: Professor Hoffman

1. Favorite food: Cake.
2. Favorite law school class: Constitutional Law.
3. Most impressive thing a student can do: Provide an answer or ask a question that shows he or she is thinking hard about the subject and developing a good understanding of it.
4. Most irritating thing a student can do: Not doing the reading, especially when the student tries to pretend he or she has done the reading and responds to a “cold call” with a clearly incorrect answer. (Interviewer note: I took Prof. Hoffman’s Civil Procedure class last year and I observed that students who tried this stunt were “on the spot” the next time class met.)
5. Why did you choose to become a law school professor? I love teaching as well as research and writing, so this seemed like a very good fit for me.
6. Subject of your research area: Health information technology and other areas in health law and employment discrimination.
8. Law School: Harvard (J.D.), University of Houston (LL.M.)
10. Classes you most recommend taking before you leave law school: Evidence, Tax, Administrative Law, Business Administration, and anything I teach.

Constitutional Law: Dean Entin

1. Favorite food: Almost anything chocolate.
2. Favorite Law School Class: Constitutional Law.
3. Most impressive thing a student can do: His or her best.
4. Most irritating thing a student can do: Not doing his or her best.
5. Why did you choose to become a law professor? I wasn’t actually seeking to become a law professor when I got hired here. I love to learn new things and started out to be a social scientist but got diverted before completing my Ph.D. My wife was teaching in a music conservatory when I decided to go to law school, and we expected to decide what to do next when (or if) I finished. I was lucky to clerk for Justice Ginsburg when she was on the D.C. Circuit. She was a former law professor who encouraged her clerks to consider an academic career, but I still wasn’t sure that I was talented enough to be a law professor. Some of my law teachers decided that I had potential and gave me my name to the late Ernest Gellhorn, who was dean of the CWRU law school at the time, and everything happened from there.
8. Law School: Northwestern University.
9. Hardest Law School Class you took while in law school: Federal Courts, which was also a favorite class.
10. Classes you most recommend taking before you leave law school: Business Associations, Evidence, Tax, Commercial Law, classes that involve statutory law, and classes that involve writing. (Interviewer note: Dean Entin’s initial response was, “Read my course planning memo” followed by a several-second pause.)

Property: Professor Webster

1. Favorite food: Sushi.
2. Favorite law school class: Comparative Law, International Law.
3. Most impressive thing a student can do: Teach me something I don’t already know, which happens frequently.
4. Most irritating thing a student can do: Surfing the web and playing solitaire in class top my list of annoyances.
5. Why did you choose to become a law school professor? Law interacts with so many of the world’s most pressing, interesting and important issues. Teaching, researching and writing about these issues provide me constant stimulation and joy.
6. Subject of your research area: East Asian Law, International Law.
7. Undergraduate institution: Yale College (B.A., MA.)
8. Law school: Cornell Law School (J.D., LL.M.)
9. Hardest law school class you took while in law school: Civil Procedure and Property.
10. Classes you most recommend taking before you leave law school: Classes in international and comparative law will prepare students to interact with the broader world around them. Whether a student works for a law firm, the government, or a public interest organization, chances are good that one or more clients will be foreign, be based in a foreign country, have assets located abroad, or otherwise have a close connection with a jurisdiction outside of the US. Students who understand how cultural differences inform legal solutions will become lawyers who negotiate important deals on favorable terms, win asylum applications for their clients, arbitrate disputes with strong outcomes, and otherwise enjoy professional success.

Cheren continued from Page 1 correct.

To make his cynical point even more apparent, Professor Kerr’s only citation is a “See generally” Otto N. Kerr, A Theory of Law, 16 GREEN BAG 2d 111 (2012)” for his statement “For further support, consult the extensive scholarly work on the point.” Id.
In response to Professor Kerr’s extremely popular and favorably-accepted article, the Green Bag requested submissions for its first ever micro-symposium. The Green Bag invited any commentary that is novel, interesting, and not musespirited, while only restricting the length to 164 words (the original length of Professor Kerr’s article).

Of the 101 micro-essays the Green Bag received, Cheren’s article was one of twenty-two published between the Winter 2013 issue of the Green Bag and the Journal of Law. Id. at 215.
Cheren’s commentary offered Professor Kerr, as well as all other legal scholars, an encouraging note that at least the Case Western Reserve Law Review has begun to recognize a need to change the traditional citation requirements.
Cheren’s essay focused on the Law Review’s reformulated policy, which demands a citation for every reference, instead of requiring authors to support every claim. Cheren explains, “Authors may make whatever claims they desire with however much support as they choose. The rule is simple to administer and – better yet – omitted citations to references can be produced by 2Ls without turning authors.” Robert D. Cheren, An Alternative Citation Policy, 2 JOURNAL OF LAW 492 (2013).
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Jonathan Entin offered his congratulations, “I am delighted that Bobbi Cheren is being published in the micro-symposium on A Theory of Law and particularly applaud the law review’s decision not to tax authors, whether the tax is direct or indirect. In the spirit of the law review’s rule, I should note that the reference is to U.S. Const. art. I, § 2, cl. 3.”