

◆ THE BARRISTER ◆

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

JANUARY 1994

CLINIC TO MOVE INTO NEW MODEL LAW OFFICE

The Clinical Legal Experience Program ("The Clinic") at North Carolina Central University School of Law is planning a "change of venue" from its present location on the second floor of the Law School Building to an area in the basement of the Law School Building. The relocation of the Clinic will accomplish two major objectives. First, the move will enable the Clinic to expand its



office space and develop a "Model Law Office". Second, the move will provide additional office space for the expansion of the Placement Office on the second floor of the Law School Building.

The Clinic provides an opportunity for third-year law students to handle client cases under the close supervision of experienced attorneys and law professors. At the present time, three clinical programs are offered. The Criminal Litigation Clinic provides an opportunity for third-year law students to handle misdemeanor criminal cases in Durham County District Court. Professor Fred Williams

is the Director of the Criminal Litigation Clinic and he is assisted by Visiting Professor Grady Jessup. The Civil Litigation Clinic serves legal services clients in a broad range of civil matters, including consumer problems, housing problems and domestic cases. Professor Thomas Ringer heads the Civil Litigation Clinic and Visiting Professor Audrey Tillman serves as the Supervising Attorney. During the 1992-1993 academic year, the Civil Rights Litigation Clinic was established with the support of Clinical Legal Experience Grant from the United States Department of Education. The Civil Rights Litigation Clinic provides an

STATUTORY INTERPRETATION CLASS CONTROVERSY

In a past issue of *The Barrister*, the issue of whether the Law School could require Statutory Interpretation as a graduation requirement was addressed. It was alleged that the Statutory Interpretation class was a review course for the North Carolina Bar. The American Bar Association: Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar and the Accreditation Committee



Standards 301 and 302 prohibit the requirement of a bar review course for graduation. Reprinted here is the body of a

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THE DEAN'S CORNER:

Assistant Dean Sandra Polin

Professor Sandra Polin, the Assistant Dean for the Day Program, is responsible for many law school functions ranging from admission to financial aid.

As Assistant Dean for the Day Program, Professor Polin is responsible for the admissions process. This includes the review of applications for admission to the Day Program for purposes of making recommendations to the Dean and the Faculty Admissions Committee and overseeing the processing and maintenance of applications. She also supervises the compilation and retrieval of admissions data and the secretary for admissions.

Professor Polin is also the immediate supervisor of the Director of Recruitment. She is responsible for reviewing the recruitment plan and ensuring that the plan is carried out. Along with the Director of Recruitment, the Assistant Dean works to implement various recruitment plans and develop recruitment literature for distribution.

Another challenging responsibility is Professor Polin's position as liaison between the law students and the Financial Aid Office. She makes recommendations to the Dean and the Financial Aid Office for scholarships and grants, and she prepares the forms needed to process the awards. Professor Polin also takes time to listen to the financial problems students have and tries to hasten the process of discovering the cause and correcting the financial aid problems.

The Assistant Dean for the Day Program also has several other duties. She must update the Law School Bulletin and coordinate the hiring of research assistants. Professor Polin also is expected to review the recruitment, admissions, and financial aid policies and procedures and to make recommendations to the appropriate administrators or committees. She is assigned other duties by the Dean on a need basis.

♦ EDITORIAL ♦

MEET THE NEW SCHOOL NEWSPAPER!

After a lot of discussion and work, *The Barrister* is making its first appearance for the year.

The Barrister's format is completely new and still a little experimental. This year we want to open the newspaper to the students, faculty, administration, and staff. We are also inviting all of the law school organizations to participate. All organizations are invited to submit articles to *The Barrister*.

An editorial page will be made available for use by any and all members of the NCCU Law

School. The editorials will be subject to screening and editing. The editorial page is not intended to be a boxing ring. It is intended to be a place where important, but overlooked issues, can be presented in an informative and concerned manner.

This is your newspaper. This is your opportunity to do something with it that will be visible to not only the Law School family, but also to members of the public and members of the legal profession.

Your suggestions are welcomed. You may contact *The Barrister* through the mail box in the basement of the Law School.

By the way, volunteer writers are MORE than welcome!!

Laurie Richardson
Editor-in-Chief

The Barrister's Staff

Laurie Richardson
Editor

Renee Cowick
Copy Editor

Sue Hall
Managing Editor

Professor Cheryl Amana
Faculty Advisor

♦ **NCCU LAW ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS** ♦**WORDS FROM THE LAW JOURNAL**

Freddie Lane, Jr.

Membership on the Law Journal is an honor which will follow students throughout their legal careers. Invitations to join the Law Journal are extended to students selected on the basis of a writing competition held at the end of each spring semester. Criteria upon which new members are selected include grade point average, writing ability and editing skills. Congratulations are extended to the following new members of the Law Journal:

Nick Bagshawe
Susan Hall
Vershenia
Ballance
Carol Jones
Anton Bell
Carolyn Karpinos
Renee Cobb
Freddie Lane, Jr.
Craig Croom
John Logsdon
Lisa Dukelow
Sherry Miller
Brenda Gibson
Susan Peeler

DELTA THETA PHI

Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity will host several events in the upcoming months. These events were sponsored to assist first year students preparing for their upcoming exams. In addition there will be several forums to address interviewing techniques and the best way to present yourself to a prospective employer. Students will be able to engage in mock interviews with prospective employers and to get feedback on the interviews.

BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

North Carolina Central University School of Law hosted the Southern Regional Conference Meeting on October 22-24, 1993. The National Academic Retreat was held in Atlanta, Georgia on Oct. 1-3, 1993, at Georgia State University. Our very own Professor Cheryl Amana lectured on the subject of Property. We would like to thank all students who attended our first meeting of the year. If anyone has any questions concerning the BLSA library, please direct them to Elizabeth Curtis or Lalita Wells. BLSA library hours are posted on the door of the Multi-purpose room in the basement.

PHI DELTA PHI : SURVING LAW SCHOOL

Sherri Miller

Welcome 1-Ls. You made it to law school! You survived the LSAT exam, the admission process, financial aid and mid-term exams. Now, prepare yourself to a year of late nights and academic pressures. You will have to give up your favorite television shows to make time for the fine art of reading and briefing cases.

For the returning students, welcome to another challenging year. But do not worry. The legal fraternity, Phi Delta Phi, is here to help make your law school experience as easy as possible.

Phi Delta Phi was established in 1869, only nine years before the American Bar Association. It is one of the oldest fraternities in the nation. Phi Delta Phi was established to promote the advancement of high scholarship and culture, and its members adhere to the highest standards of personal and professional ethics. Five of the nine Justices of the United States Supreme Court (Rehnquist, Stevens, O'Connor, Scalia, and Kennedy) are members of the Fraternity. Phi Delta Phi is available to all law students and strives to maintain cultural diversity in its membership.

Law school does not have to be an overwhelming experience. For all the students at North Carolina Central University School of Law, Phi Delta Phi members ask that you consider the fraternity as a valuable resource in meeting the demands of the law school and a subsequent legal career.

1-L CLASS NEWS!

Tiffany Peguise

"Ask not what your class can do for you, but what you can do for your class." - This was the theme of the 1-L class meeting on Tuesday, September 21st.

President Cleo Marshall chose this theme to express how the Class of '96 would accomplish its goals.

The 1-Ls kicked off their meeting by getting to the heart of the matter, graduation. Marshall explained that each class is responsible for its own graduation, excluding the degree and the use of any building on campus.

Vice-President Harold Cogdell reminded the class that the graduating class is also responsible for the cost of a speaker. He suggested that a dinner for the speaker would also be a nice gesture.

Students expressed an interest in paying their portion of graduation now. However, the president explained that there was no way to foresee who

would be here in three years; therefore, there is no way to assess each person's portion of the total graduation bill.

In other business, the Executive Board presented a tentative calendar for the class's approval. This calendar included proposed events for the 93-94 academic year and committees that would facilitate the plans. The agenda was ratified unanimously.

After much debate, the 1-L class voted to set dues at \$20 per semester.

Those who wish to sign up for a committee should contact President Cleo Marshall, Vice-President Harold Cogdell, Secretary Tiffany Peguise, Treasurer Rob Cain, or Representatives Shawna Early and Tamla Tymus.

The 1-L Class wishes to express its appreciation to the Student Bar Association for the funds allocated to the class.

♦ NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK ♦

CARREL USAGE

The NCCU Law School Library is fortunate to be able to provide individual carrel space for each student enrolled in the Law School. These carrels are assigned to individual students by the Student Bar Association and maintained by the Library staff. Once assigned a carrel, the student is responsible for it. Please report any carrel malfunctions to the Circulation Librarian, Ms. Anita Hasty-Speed. Do not attempt to repair the malfunctions. The maintenance department on campus will correct any problems in as timely a manner as possible. You can help eliminate or correct problems like frequent light outages by turning off the light when you leave your carrel.

While the carrel is "home away from home" for many students, eating and drinking in the carrels is prohibited. The drink cans and candy and food wrappers left in the carrels are unacceptable. Eating and drinking in the Library is a violation of Library rules. Students whose carrels have to be cleared of drink cans and food wrappers more than once in a semester will be warned by letter. If there continues to be evidence of eating and drinking in the carrel, the matter will be referred to the Law School Disciplinary Committee.

Over 80% of the books found in the Law School Library are noncirculating. This means that these books cannot be checked out of the Library. Law books like reporters and journals do not circulate because of the frequency of use of those volumes. It is for this reason that it is important that you reshelve books after use. If you stack books in your carrel for several days, those books are inaccessible to your colleagues. Therefore, books left in carrels will be reshelfed on a daily basis.

Thank you for helping the Library staff serve you.

WOMEN'S CAUCUS REPORT

Heidi Stewart

The objective of the Women's Caucus is to advocate and work in furtherance of issues that relate to and concern women and the law. Any student currently registered at NCCU School of Law is welcome to join the Women's Caucus. Professor Cheryl Amana serves as the faculty advisor.

During August and September bi-weekly meetings, the Caucus was busy brainstorming about plans for the upcoming year! A Constitutional committee has been formed to review the current Constitution, which is on reserve in the library. The committee will present recommendations for amendments to the Constitution at the next meeting of the Women's Caucus.

A number of Caucus members attended the North

Carolina Association of Women Attorneys Conference., which was held October 1st and 2nd at the Shell Island Resort in Wrightsville Beach. Session topics included: Creative Settlement Techniques, Women as Negotiators, a Legislative Update, Improving Battered Women's Access to Justice, Sexual Harassment, Alternatives to the 40+ Hour Workweek and Child Care Solutions, and Litigation and Legislation Affecting Women's Access to Health Care.

Those members of the Caucus who attended gathered information and made contacts with various forum presenters. This information will be shared later with members of the Women's Caucus and with other interested members of the LawSchool.

The Caucus elected to hold a

Breast Cancer Awareness Forum in October to discuss the legal aspects of insurance companies and breast cancer. October is National Breast Cancer month. A committee has been formed to make arrangements for the forum, which will be open to the law school, general NCCU campus and community.

The Caucus also elected to hold informal discussion groups once a month to discuss and share information about various topics of interest. The newly formed Topics committee will present suggested discussion topics to the membership at the October 7th meeting.

Please contact the Women's Caucus through their mailbox in the basement of the law school if you have any ideas, suggestions, or concerns. Together we can make it happen!

CONTROVERSY

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letter from the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. It conveys the findings of the ABA's investigation of the Statutory Interpretation class.

To: Bill Olynick, the 1992 editor of *The Barrister*

We have completed our investigation of your complaint against North Carolina Central School of Law. We find that your complaint, the report of the site evaluation team, and the dean's response all considered do not support a finding of non-compliance with the Standards. Therefore, in accordance with Rule 34, your complaint is dismissed.

When visiting the law school in 1991, the site evaluation team examined the law school's curriculum, and specifically discussed the statutory interpretation course in its report. This discussion, however, was not based on a concern about non-compliance with the Standards, but on a perception that the course was a curricular innovation for which the law school was to be lauded. The site evaluation team was satisfied that the course was not a bar review course for credit within the meaning of the Standards.

Sincerely, William B. Powers, Esq., Research Lawyer.

♦ PATENT LAW-A Great Career Opportunity ♦

Sue Hall

Looking for a new career? Try Patent Law. According to Professor Smith, there are fewer than eighty patent attorneys in North Carolina. In fact, Professor Smith says that the patent bar estimates that nearly 35-40% of its attorneys will be at retirement age within the next three to four years, causing a severe shortage.

Law firms are always seeking patent attorneys. Professor Smith says that professional head hunters "feast" off patent attorneys. He remembers when he would get a phone call from a head hunter once every three or four months, trying to entice him into a new position. Many large corporations, such as I.B.M., have patent attorneys on board. Although corporations do not publicly hunt for new patent attorneys, they do keep watch in the patent field and will privately approach attorneys. In addition, there is always academia since many universities recruit patent attorneys to instruct.

To become a patent attorney, you must take a specialized bar exam which is offered twice per year. The non-refundable application fee is \$100, and the exam costs an additional \$300. Generally, only 30% of all applicants will pass their first exam. Specialized review courses, therefore, are the general rule and will cost an additional \$1,200 to \$4,000.

Special educational requirements are necessary to sit for the patent bar. The regulations

governing the recognition of individuals to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office in patent cases are set forth in 37 CFR §§ 10.5, 10.6 and 10.7. In brief, an applicant may be able to register under any one of three categories.

The first category requires a bachelor's degree in a recognized technical subject. Some of the permissible subjects are biology, engineering, and physics. Of course, an official transcript will be required.

Under the second category, if you do not have a bachelor's degree, the requirements provide four options which can establish that you possess scientific and technical training equivalent to that received for a bachelor's degree. The various options require anywhere from 24 to 40 semester hours of specific university courses or 16 hours plus an apprenticeship with a registered patent attorney or agent.

The last category is for those people relying on practical engineering or scientific experience. The applicant must take and pass the Engineer-in-training (EIT) test. North Carolina State University offers this program.

N.C.C.U. School of Law offers upper level courses in patent law. If interested in becoming a patent attorney or in receiving further information concerning this field, please contact Professor C. Smith at the School of Law.

Clinic

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opportunity for students to handle Civil Rights cases under the supervision of Attorney Paul Jones, who is the Director of the Civil Rights Litigation Clinic. Attorney Jones is assisted by Dean Irving Joyner.

The Clinic will move into an area of the basement that was not finished at the time the Law School moved into the present building in 1980. The General Assembly allocated funds to renovate and complete the unfinished basement area for the expansion of the Clinic. Architects have prepared initial drawings of the floor plan, which includes four offices, an interview room, a student work area, a conference room, a secretarial area and a reception area.

function as a "Model Law Office". The most modern office technology, including computerized legal research, audio-video equipment, a word processing network and built-in modules will be incorporated into the clinical area. According to Professor Ringer, the "model law office" will serve as a paradigm for the law office of the future. Clinical students will interview clients, conduct counseling sessions, prepare letters and documents, conduct research and perform other lawyering activities under the close supervision of clinical professors.

The Clinic invites comments and suggestions from students, faculty and staff concerning the design of the new clinical office space.