



March 2008

## University Honors Dean Patrick J. Rohan

By James J. O'Rourke IV '08

Look around you. Many aspects of St. John's Law that we enjoy every day can be traced directly back to one man, Patrick J. Rohan, Dean Emeritus. Hailed by many to be our greatest alumnus, Dean Rohan began his education by finishing his undergraduate studies at St. John's in just two and a half years. Then he graduated our law program with a full scholarship in 1956 Magna Cum Laude, tied for first in his class with former Governor of New York Mario Cuomo.

Dean Rohan attended a very different school than we do today. When Rohan and Mr. Cuomo were ranked first in their class, St. John's still graded on a curve, albeit a drastically more



competitive curve. At the time, the curve here at St. John's was 15% B or above. That's right. 85% of the entire class was given less than a B average. Dean Rohan was also Editor in Chief of the Law Review, which was also much more

competitive than it is today. At the time, Law Review had GPA requirements not only for admission, but also for continued membership. Any student that dropped below the 15% B or above curve was kicked off the Law Review. With a sixty hour a week workload, this was no easy task. By the time Dean Rohan graduated, about half of the law review members he had begun with had been dropped due to "low" grades.

As Dean Rohan approached the end of his third year of law school, he decided he wanted to join the honorable ranks of the St. John's law faculty "because they work less hours than undergraduate profs and they get

See "Honoring," page 12

### HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE:

ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS,  
ELECTIONS! ...Also, Elections.  
Pages 6-9

New Orleans Recap  
Page 2

PIC Auction Pictures  
Page 9

The Biggest Haiku Corner  
Ever Printed  
Page 11

The Writing of R.S. Holman  
Pages 10-11

### Elder Law Clinic Represents 93-Year-Old Man With Alzheimer's Whose House Was Stolen; Queens District Attorney Indicts Perpetrators

By Amanda Goun Northrop '09  
& Karen Newbury '09

For the past three semesters, St. John's law students in the Elder Law Clinic have spent considerable time and effort working on cases for a particular client – one Mr. M. The Clinic's efforts were aided and affirmed when a grand jury recently handed down indictments against the two women who defrauded Mr. M., stole his house of forty years, and drained the equity from another of his properties. These women are now faced with civil and criminal lawsuits.

The Queens District Attorney indicted the two women on several charges, including grand larceny, hate crimes against an

elderly man, and identity theft. One of the women is being held on \$100,000 bail, and the other on \$25,000 bail. They each face up to twenty-five years in prison if convicted of the charges.

This indictment arises out of the same facts as those underlying the civil cases that the Clinic students have been working on since early 2007. Professors Ann Goldweber and Gina Calabrese supervise the students in their representation of Mr. M. He is a 93-year-old Queens man who spent his entire adult life working during the day as a barber and at night as a janitor to support his wife and children and to buy two properties

See *Elder Law*, page 4

### CLARO: St. John's Newest Pro Bono Program for Consumers

By Fletcher Strong '09

An exciting new pro bono program is being offered by St. John's University Law School that gives students the opportunity to learn and take part in the various issues that arise from consumer debt claims. The new program, the "Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office" (CLARO), offers legal advice to consumers being sued by creditors in civil court. The program opened its doors for the first time in the Queens Civil Courthouse on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and continues to operate on a weekly basis every Friday afternoon with the assistance of St.

John's law student volunteers, volunteer attorneys, and the oversight of the sponsoring non-profit organization: the Queens Bar Association, Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP).

As the consumer debt crisis continues to escalate in this country, Queens County has been unable to avoid its impact. In a recent report issued by the Urban Justice Center, the number of consumer collection cases in New York City has skyrocketed since 2001. The report estimates that last year, courts issued judgments totaling \$784 million in consumer credit collection actions. Of the 618,000 total civil cases filed in

See *CLARO*, page 5

# 27 SJU Students Spend Spring Break Cleaning Up After Katrina

By Eddie Mario '08

For some, the St. John's Law School having a spring break for the first time meant an escape into the sun and a warmer climate. For some, it meant a series of eight straight mornings where they awoke without being able to remember the previous night. But for twenty-seven students sponsored by the Law School and the Public Interest Committee, it meant combining both of those scenarios with aiding the still ailing city of New Orleans.

These students were given \$750 and the opportunity to help those who are still suffering from the rage of Hurricane Katrina. Despite two and a half years having passed since the levies broke in the Big Easy, there are still entire communities displaced all over the state and the nation. The Student Hurricane Network (SHN) was established to try to aid many of the victims that have been left behind by FEMA and other government programs. SHN is made up of law students across the nation and headquartered at Tulane Law School in New Orleans. The twenty-seven students from St. John's joined forces with over four hundred other volunteers who gave up their spring break this year to help those in need from March 16–March 21.

The week began with an orientation where students were addressed by Katrina survivors. The stories ranged from a man who lost everything and is now building a community center in the lower ninth ward (lower9thwardvillage.com) to a man who stayed during the hurricane and was shot at by the military when he attempted to bring water to victims at the Superdome. The stories brought to life some of the horrors that have gone unreported in New Orleans since Katrina touched down on August 29, 2005.

Students from our school were then divided into four projects—FEMA/Human Rights, Katrina Docket, LJI Mapping, and GNOFHAC.

The FEMA group traveled far outside the borders of the city to interview victims still living in FEMA trailers. The group traveled to areas near Slidell, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette which lie one hour, two hours, and two and a half hours outside of New Orleans, respectively. Students canvassed the trailers in an attempt to find legal problems that lawyers associated with SHN, and willing to do pro bono work, could help with. In addition, two students were

trained to fill out tax returns for people on social security or disability income who were eligible for the new Stimulus Payment.

The Katrina Docket Project involved law students collecting information from public interest attorneys from across the country in order to compile a comprehensive database detailing all Katrina-related litigation. Compiling and distributing this database would allow many public interest lawyers, typically working alone and strapped for cash, to better coordinate efforts against defendants with nearly unlimited resources by avoiding duplicative and overlapping efforts.

LJI mapping students worked with the Louisiana Justice Institute compiling surveys of affected properties in New Orleans. They interviewed residents, contractors, and neighbors in the community to find out about their continued needs for rebuilding. The ultimate purpose behind the project is to develop neighborhood associations that can affirmatively work with their local and state governments, and address the actual needs of their community.

Students assigned to GNOFHAC collected empirical data on the Road Home program for the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center. The Road Home Program is a federally funded program designed to bring Louisiana residents home. There have been reports that this money has been disbursed unevenly and even arbitrarily, and we were sent to the neighborhoods to see if that was indeed true. Our group covered the entire area we were assigned and found out that some households had received the full amount while others, right next door, with the same or similar damage, had received nothing.

In addition to helping the victims of Katrina, volunteers were encouraged to experience the culture of New Orleans in order to see why the city is worth restoring. This culture ranged from parades down Bourbon Street to jazz concerts to Homets basketball. The week profoundly impacted many students. The sentiments of many on the trip were eloquently expressed by Dianne Arrue: "New Orleans is not only a beautiful city with a fantastic night life, restaurants and

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culture, but it is comprised of some of the most respectable, resilient and strong people I have ever met in my life. It was extremely rewarding to support them in their efforts to rebuild their communities and strive to make them even stronger than before Katrina struck." May that day come sooner than later.

## What About Clients 1 Through 8?

By Marissa A. McAleer '09

Let's assume, *arguendo*, for the purposes of this article that Eliot Spitzer didn't illegally structure financial transactions, didn't use taxpayer dollars to elicit the services of prostitutes, and wasn't involved in a conspiracy to shut-down prostitute rings that competed with his establishment of choice. Of course, if he did do any of these things then he should be prosecuted accordingly. But assuming that the only acts Client 9 engaged in were spending \$80,000 of his own money on prostitutes, should he be treated any differently than Clients 1 through 8?

Last time I checked we have a government of laws and not men, and that adage should apply even when considering the particular man being charged of a crime. The Mann Act is premised on Congress's Commerce Power and, from what I understand, it is aimed primarily at prosecuting those involved in the *business* of transporting prostitutes across state lines. When was the last time you heard of a *customer* being charged under The Mann Act?

Exactly. If the Federal Government brings charges against Clients 1 through 8, then Client 9 should be no exception. But if the Federal Government allows Clients 1 through 8 to walk away with just a slap on the wrist, then Eliot Spitzer should walk away, too.

I don't think anyone would disagree with me when I say that Spitzer is a complete hypocrite. He was either so egotistical that he thought he would never get caught or he was so reckless that he was, in effect, trying to self-destruct. Either way, he was caught doing the same things that he gave others no mercy for. But the last time I checked, hypocrisy wasn't a crime on the books. And all I can say in response is—Thank God for that.

I don't know how I feel about Spitzer resigning. I've changed my mind so many times (I guess that makes me a flip-flopper?) that I'm not entirely comfortable giving an opinion. But I will say this. When it comes to matters of the heart (and matters of the... pants?) we all make stupid decisions sometimes, but that doesn't make us unqualified for our jobs. I think it's silly to hold public officials to higher

standards than we hold the rest of mankind—they're just as flawed as the rest of us. And while most of us are not having torrid affairs with prostitutes, I don't think society would be treating Spitzer much differently if instead of paying a prostitute he had a mistress whose rent and bills he paid. If the Clinton debacle has taught us anything it's that it really doesn't matter what form the sexual indiscretions take; we're pointing our fingers either way. Throw in a Britney Spears crotch-shot for good measure and we're glued to our television sets, judging others from the safety of our own living rooms. Legal or illegal, Americans *en masse* are jonesin' to pass their moral condemnation on persons in the public eye.

One day, Mr. Spitzer will have to pay for what he did. He'll have to face his wife and children, his conscience and, ultimately, his Maker. Spitzer may not have been just in his prosecutions, but if we want to change an inequitable system, asking this question may be a good place to start: In terms of making Spitzer face the moral condemnation of the Federal Criminal Justice System, how should Clients 1 through 8 be punished?

# Anarchy: The Metaphysics of Law

By Michael Catallo '10

What is the law? Is it a tangible, visible, or physical thing? Perhaps law is nothing more than an illusion, simply put in place by the authorities to deceive the citizens that there is actually order and stability. Do we need laws, and if we do, who should create them?

The lawyer is the magician, the words his or her craft. It is an art, not a science; law is created, not calculated. It is magic. In order to become a successful lawyer, one must understand words. Words are symbols, symbols convey meaning. However, there is no absolute meaning; each individual has his own perspective that will interpret meaning in a different way. Therefore law doesn't really have any 'meaning' at all – or perhaps many meanings. If law has no meaning, then it is meaningless and there is no law at all. Virtual anarchy. If law has many meanings, then there are many different sets of law and no absolute moral 'rights' or 'wrongs.' In order to establish stability, the governing authorities come to a consensus to which set of laws should be 'right.' But the governing authorities can choose a set of laws that are 'immoral' or 'incorrect' or just plain stupid. Slavery, and various racist and sexist laws that are founded in this country's past, clearly demonstrate the fallacy of allowing governing authorities to choose what set of laws is 'correct.'

The alternative to the government authorities choosing laws is not so great either. It is the virtual anarchy scenario, where there is no law and complete chaos. Is chaos desirable, or is stability more desirable? Most people would argue for stability, where there is an authority in place to administer the 'correct' set of laws. However, this is arbitrary in the sense that even when a set of laws is agreed upon to be the most



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#### With Commentary By

**Hon. Joseph W. Bellacosa**

*Former Judge (1987-2000)  
New York State Court of Appeals  
Former Dean (2000-2004)  
St. John's School of Law*

#### Introduction by

**Professor Philip Weinberg**

*Professor of Law  
St. John's School of Law*

#### Moderated by

**Professor Rosemary C. Salomone**

*Kenneth Wang Professor of Law  
St. John's School of Law*

#### Reception to Follow

**Monday, March 31, 2008 | 4:30–6:30 p.m.**  
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desirable set for a society, there cannot be any certainty that these are the 'right' laws. But that is the purpose of laws, isn't it, for certainty, stability, and order. Laws are constantly changing to try and meet constant expectations of society, but if laws are constantly changing, then there is no stability,

no order, or maybe only the illusion of stability and order. Well, what is reality? Reality is that human beings are chaotic, changing creatures – stability and order is not the normal state. Entropy and anarchy support creativity and growth; illusions of stability and order, or actual order itself, stunts

human development. In order for human beings to reach their maximum potential, there must be minimum interference, therefore total anarchy, no body of authorities dictating which perspective or set of laws is 'correct.'

So why am I in law school? To create my own law reality.

# Elder Law, *continued from page 1*

in Queens. Before these two women became involved in his life, Mr. M. had nearly paid off the mortgage on his Jamaica home of forty years and had completely paid off the mortgage on the Bayside property that he rented to tenants. Currently, Mr. M.'s sole source of income is Social Security.

In 2004, a woman in her thirties named Alexandra began making regular visits to ninety-year-old Mr. M. at his home. As the daughter of Mr. M.'s deceased friend, she was able to gain Mr. M.'s trust. Alexandra was then suffering personal financial troubles and after befriending Mr. M., she soon obtained multiple personal loans from him purportedly to pay the mortgages on her own home and to save her late father's store from foreclosure. It is believed that these loans were never repaid. During this time, Mr. M. came to trust Alexandra with his personal finances. Indeed, she assisted him with daily errands, such as food-shopping and paying of monthly bills, and took him on day trips. The D.A.'s Office alleges that Alexandra stole Mr. M.'s identity at this time, applying for a credit card in his name that she used for her own expenses. Further, she allegedly gained access to Mr. M.'s savings and Social Security earnings by placing her name on joint bank accounts with him.

Mr. M.'s case is especially complicated because he is unable to remember any details about what occurred with his money and property. A kind man who quotes scripture and knows right from wrong, he also suffers from symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. In fact, every time the Clinic students meet with Mr. M. to discuss his case, he is consistently shocked to re-discover that he no longer owns his home and that HSBC Bank is trying to foreclose on his property of forty years. Mr. M. clearly remembers from before his memory loss set in that he had nearly paid off the mortgage on his family's Jamaica home. He is further saddened and surprised each time he is informed that his rental property is now heavily encumbered and in foreclosure.

Mr. M.'s daughter, Mary, lives in New Jersey and has always maintained a close relationship with her father. She generally visited him on weekends, but starting in 2004, she found that Alexandra was habitually taking Mr. M. from his home on those days that she anticipated Mary's visits. Mary then began visiting her father unannounced so that Alexandra could not take steps to prevent her from seeing him, and warned her father that young people sometimes take financial advantage of the elderly and steal their money. Mr. M. told Mary that he trusted Alexandra.

The Clinic alleges that in 2004, Alexandra either forged Mr. M.'s signature or fraudulently induced him to sign a mortgage on his Bayside property and papers to sell his Jamaica home. As a result, Mr. M.'s Bayside property became encumbered with a \$420,000 mortgage. He did not receive any of the proceeds from that mortgage. Although he continues to live there to this day, Mr. M.'s Jamaica home was sold in 2004 for \$395,000 to Rebecca, Alexandra's friend and accomplice, and it is now encumbered with a \$316,000 mortgage. Mr. M. did not receive any consideration from the mortgage or the sale of his own home, except for a very small mortgage pay-off. In 2007, Mr. M.'s god-daughter discovered the mortgages and brought him to the Elder Law Clinic seeking help. Mr. M. does not recall signing these documents and adamantly affirms that he had no intent to sell or place mortgages on his properties.

In 2007, HSBC, the current mortgagee, brought actions to foreclose on Mr. M.'s Jamaica home and Bayside property. The Elder Law Clinic represents Mr. M. with his daughter Mary acting as his guardian. The Clinic alleges several affirmative defenses and counterclaims against the many actors involved in the mortgage closing and sale closing, including breach of fiduciary duty, conversion, fraudulent misrepresentation, and fraud. The Clinic contends that the mortgages on and sale of Mr. M.'s properties are void, because Mr. M.

either did not sign the documents or was incompetent and fraudulently induced to sign them. The Clinic contends that Mr. M. should be restored as the full owner of unencumbered Bayside and Jamaica properties. Clinic students are currently in the midst of discovery and are starting to prepare for depositions.

Mr. M.'s daughter, Mary, bears the heavy burden of trying to untangle the mess left in the wake of Alexandra and Rebecca's actions. Mary still lives out-of-state, but drives to Queens to visit and care for her father each week. She also works a full-time job and recently suffered a personal loss in her immediate family. Mary is constantly nervous that associates of Alexandra or Rebecca will visit her father while she is at her job and take advantage of him further. Mary was recently appointed as Mr. M.'s Article 81 Guardian which entails additional responsibility. Her resources are limited but she continues to take care of her father and appear at all court proceedings with the Clinic students and professors.

Chad Horton, 2L, a former student in the Clinic, reflected on his work on Mr. M.'s case: "The Elder Law Clinic was a great experience for me, and I would whole-heartedly recommend it to anyone who's interested. Not only was it a great opportunity to do real world hands-on work, but also a great introduction to doing public interest work. In school, we commonly think about clients as abstract people, but when your client is a 93-year-old man who's fighting to keep his house, the situation becomes a lot more real." After appearing in several court proceedings in Queens Supreme Court with his fellow Clinic students and professors on behalf of Mr. M., Chad observed that, "the judge's attitude toward the parties can have a huge influence on the course of a case – sometimes far more than the black letter law."

Mr. M.'s case is particularly sympathetic. Karen Newbury, 2L, a co-author of this article and another former student in the Clinic, noted that "working with a client

who suffers from short term memory loss is particularly challenging, even when a competent and trustworthy relative is acting as his guardian." Indeed, Karen revealed that "working on Mr. M.'s case was a positive but somewhat disheartening experience. The Elder Law Clinic provides top notch representation as well as a big litigation firm and produces papers and arguments which match or are superior to the work of the opposing parties. Mr. M. and Mary are ideal clients and wonderful people to get to know, and they have a very compelling case. The court process that will hopefully enable 93-year-old Mr. M. to legally own what is rightfully his, however, seems to crawl at a snail's pace. It is my hope that the publicity generated from the indictment of Alexandra and Rebecca and the compelling facts as presented by the Clinic will result in a favorable disposition of Mr. M.'s civil suit so that he and Mary can finally be rid of this stressful experience."

All the students are in agreement that Mr. M. is a beloved client with a compelling story. Amanda Golob, 3L, a current student in the Clinic commented: "Mr. M. is one of the sweetest, kindest, most gentle people I have ever met, and to know that he was taken advantage of by someone who he was close to, who he trusted so deeply, saddens me. He worked hard his whole life to provide for himself and his family, and when he finally paid off both homes, and had achieved his goals, this was taken away from him, and now in his 90s, he has to fight to get back what should already be his. This also drives me to do everything I can to help him and to help others like him." Amanda concluded by praising the Clinic environment: "The Clinic has been my most rewarding experience in law school. In all our other classes we spend so much time reading cases and law that it is nice to finally see how it is applied and how it can affect positive change in real lives. I came to law school to use my education as a tool to help others, and the Clinic is allowing me to do that."

## Claro, *continued from page 1*

New York City in 2006, excluding housing and small claims, more than 50% of those cases involved consumer debt claims totaling 320,000 cases. By contrast, in 2001 there were only 248,000 total cases filed, excluding housing and small claims. This explosion in consumer debt claims in recent years has created a great need for programs like CLARO.

CLARO was originally started in Brooklyn as an offshoot of the Brooklyn Bar Association VLP. Last year, the CLARO program in Brooklyn was able to assist over 500 unrepresented litigants being sued for consumer debt. St. John's student Fletcher Strong (2L) had the opportunity to volunteer at the Brooklyn CLARO since last summer and found it to be a very rewarding experience, and was very excited at the prospect of helping to found a CLARO program in Queens. Due to the great success of the Brooklyn CLARO, it was decided that a Queens based consumer debt program should be started. Mark Weliky, the head of the Queens VLP, joined forces with Legal Aid Attorney April Newbauer, St. John's professors Gina Calabrese and Ann Goldweber, Supervising Judge of the Queens Civil Court Justice Bernice Siegal, and St. John's law student Fletcher Strong to start a new CLARO program that would be run out of the Queens Civil Courthouse.

After less than two months of operation at the Queens Civil Courthouse, the response from people helped at the CLARO program has been uniformly positive. Fletcher Strong, the St. John's Law student leader for CLARO remarked, "I have had the opportunity to see CLARO have a real impact on people's lives after just our first session. Many visitors come to CLARO with their income garnished, their bank accounts frozen, and their assets seized, without ever knowing that someone filed a case against them in the first place. To make matters worse, they oftentimes have ruthless debt collectors calling them at all hours of the night threatening to take all kinds of

action against them, up to and including their imprisonment if the debtors don't heed the collectors' warning and turn over any assets they may have. Visitors that initially walk into our program with a sense of apprehension and fear at the legal process looming before them leave our program with a new sense of hope and understanding about consumer debt law and their rights. These visitors have the opportunity to speak with St. John's law students and practicing attorneys specializing in consumer debt issues to help devise a plan of attack to unfreeze their accounts, vacate the default judgments against them, and develop legal strategies for them to defend themselves in court."

Queens CLARO has developed innovative ways to better serve those that come to the program by developing resources for visitors to obtain a St. John's Law School Student Interpreter if necessary. CLARO has also developed new training procedures for law students and volunteer attorneys to take part in to obtain a better understanding of consumer debt issues and the legal process. The response from volunteer attorneys and St. John's students has been overwhelmingly positive. Students that participate have the opportunity to be the first people visitors speak with, helping the visitors narrow down the relevant legal issues involved in their particular case before speaking with an attorney. Law students also have the opportunity to help visitors work with the court clerks to file motions, giving students a better appreciation of civil procedure in action.

The Queens Chronicle and the Times Ledger have recently published articles about CLARO and the services it provides. It's clear that Queens County has a great need for consumer debt programs such as CLARO to help inform and advise people being sued by creditors that don't have the means to help themselves.

Anyone wanting to volunteer at CLARO can contact Fletcher Strong via email at [fletcher.strong@gmail.com](mailto:fletcher.strong@gmail.com).

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*Mr. Halden will be happy to answer questions you may have on Monday, April 7th from 10AM to 3PM in the Law School cafeteria.*

# Student Bar Association Elections: Meet the Candidates...

## The only contested election this semester

### Jill Benson is running for Day Vice President



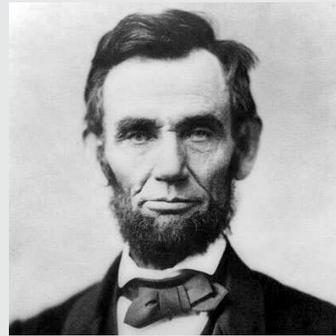
My name is Jillian Benson, and I am running for SBA Daytime Vice President. I have nothing witty or amusing to say (I am no Jim O'Rourke), and I will not waste your time trying to do so. Most people know me (well, as much as anyone notices the 1Ls here), but some of you don't, so here I go. I am an active member of the SBA family already, serving as a 1L Representative for the past school year. I have included myself in as many school functions as possible, always willing to lend a helping hand to make those functions run as smoothly as possible.

The responsibilities of the Day Vice President include party and event planning, most noticeably

and most importantly, the Semi-Formal. As I have worked in catering for years, event planning is my "thing," if you will. I have organized, planned, and worked all sorts of events, everything from birthday parties, bridal/baby showers, engagement parties, and even small-scale weddings. I know how to get things done, and I know how to get things done right... mainly by keeping everyone drunk and happy. If there is something that you want or need at the next event, I will be the person to talk to, especially considering it's your money that keeps this school running.

I am running for Day Vice President not because I simply want to build my resume, or tell my parents that I actually amounted to something at law school, or even to follow in the footsteps of Mr. Pete Ryan (one can only hope and dream). I am running because I have a genuine interest in making sure that everyone's experience here at school is one to remember and appreciate (once everyone gets past the years of therapy that studying for finals and competing with friends has caused). So please, don't forget to vote, and don't forget to vote for me, Jillian Benson.

### Tyler Simonds is running for Day Vice President



My name is Tyler Simonds and I am running for SBA Daytime Vice President. I am originally from western Massachusetts (I am much more tolerable than other Bay Staters, I promise) and moved to New York State where I attended Vassar College. After graduating in 2003 I worked at Cravath, Swaine, & Moore LLP for almost three years where as a paralegal I mastered the arts of moving boxes and photocopying. Having learned all I could there I decided to move to Queens so one day I could make recent college grads photocopy for me.

As your Daytime Vice President my most important duty would be planning various school sponsored events. As most of us can attest, these events, especially those in the fall, are crucial for building a sense of community outside of the classroom. For first year students the daily grind of law school can come as quite a shock, and I know those early school events helped me form friendships that could not have been more helpful in separating my social and academic lives.

Although I am running for a Daytime position, I was an evening student during my first year at St. John's. Our section began school orientation and classes before the daytime divisions started their academic year. Because we had that early start we bonded as a group in ways that the other sections did not. I and many of my section mates have since transferred to the daytime division, but that sense of solidarity is still present. The dynamic of the evening section was incredibly important for me as the pressures of first year left no time for older friends or other interests. Because of it, St. John's was not merely a place to take class but a community of students all with various interests and career plans.

While law school can simply be a place to earn a degree, St. John's has an opportunity to be more than that. When semesters run down and exams loom it is key for the SBA to have acclimated the student body to the rigors of law school and done its best to establish a social network that can relieve the daunting workload. For those of you whom I have never met, I am someone who likes to get to know everyone. I am great at working with others and I am genuinely interested in others' opinions about any subject. As I stated above, my most important duty would be planning events to foster our community but I also plan to build that solidarity through addressing every student's opinions and rectifying any of their concerns.

## Jonathan Bartov is running uncontested for Treasurer

Greetings fellow students! It's been another long year for the 2Ls and 3Ls and an exciting yet depressing first year for the 1Ls. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students in the various organizations that spend numerous hours planning and hosting events. The work and dedication of these students is what transforms a good law school into a great law school. Furthermore, we have some great new clubs that just started or are starting up next semester such as the Evening Students Division, the Dispute Resolution Club, Healthcare Law Society and the Criminal Law Society. I would like to encourage all students to support these blooming organizations by participating in events and meetings.

We are going to have a great 2008-2009 year starting off with the semi-formal in late September. Don't



forget, the earlier you buy your tickets, the more you save. I welcome any and all suggestions or comments that would help make St. John's and the SBA a better community. Please take time to vote for your future SBA representatives.

## Stephanie Dodge is running uncontested for Secretary

I am running unopposed, yet again, but you have to admit that you would miss the inbox full of e-mails I send you every week if I wasn't the SBA Secretary.

However, there are many reasons that I will continue to be successful as SBA secretary beyond the fact that you have no choice. (Actually, that's probably the best reason, but I have all of this space in the Forum to fill).

My choice to become involved with the SBA stemmed from my belief that you only get out of an experience what you are willing to put it. St. John's gives students the unique opportunity to make the law school experience into whatever we want it to be. Students here have the ability to become involved with every facet of their education. Over my first two years here I have learned that our school openly embraces student innovation, and students can make the changes to this institution that they see fit. Each



of us will be here for at least three years, and I feel that it is important to recognize that our school can be more than a place to sit and listen to lectures; it can be a tool for students to change their lives. As SBA Secretary, I hope to help the student body take that change into their own hands.

## Robert O'Connor (not pictured) is running uncontested for Evening Vice President

My name is Bobby O'Connor and I am running for SBA Evening Vice President. Since I am running unopposed, I would like to use this space to eulogize the leadership of Paul Vitale and James O'Rourke, who will soon be graduating and [freaking out about?] taking the bar exam.

- Paul Vitale: As President of the SBA, Paul has done a lot of really, really good stuff for students here at St. John's Law. So much so, that I cannot write about them all, unless Pete gives me more space (which he has not). Thank you for your leadership, Paul.

- James O'Rourke: Jim has been our

Academic VP, but he is probably best known for his flawless knowledge of Professor Patrick J. Rohan's curriculum vitae. Professor Rohan will miss you, Jim. As for the rest of us, um...

In all seriousness, I look forward to another opportunity to serve the interests of the student body at St. John's Law, specifically those of the evening students. I will continue to make myself available to address all of your questions, comments, and concerns via email at [occonnor.bobby@gmail.com](mailto:occonnor.bobby@gmail.com) and during my office hours, typically Monday-Thursday evenings in the SBA lounge.

## Marc Dombrowski is running uncontested for Academic Vice President

The SBA is my new job, or actually my new hobby, since I enjoy it and don't get paid for it. Unlike several hobbies such as jogging, stamp collecting, or bird collecting, I don't plan on dropping the SBA after a week once I realize it can be boring. I've learned the SBA isn't all just fun and games. It can be a lot of work, but I'm committed, or at least committed enough to write this paper when my appellate brief is due.

In undergrad I was a spiteful little man who did not toss himself into many of the extracurriculars. With no offense to undergrad government people, the idea of mocktails and frof tournaments had as much appeal to me as a Kelly Clarkson concert (a little offense to Kelly Clarkson fans—get better taste!).

Once I came to law school I realized that these are the people I can see myself working with throughout our three years here (for some of us, four) and in our careers in the public and private sectors (for some of us, the food service sector). St. John's students are extremely unique. They are generally



brilliant yet down to earth. It's like I'm going to school with Quinnipiac professors.

I will be following in some great footsteps. Jim O'Rourke has done an absolutely amazing job. If he hadn't done so, maybe I could get lazy. But now with my classmates' expectations so high, my expectations so high, and proof that a student government can be effective in making even law school somewhat fun, I will do my best to follow in those footsteps.

## Alexander Pabst is running uncontested for Associate Evening Vice President

Dear Fellow Students,

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Alex Pabst and I am the Associate Evening Vice President for the SBA. I have held this position for two years now and I am seeking a third term. I have been proud to serve on the Executive Board during this time and would like to take this time to tell you why you should vote for me. Well, to be honest, I am the best candidate for the job. In fact, I'm the only candidate for the job!



# Peter Ryan is running uncontested for President



When the deadline for the application materials for SBA executive board candidates came and went, was extended, then went again, I found out I was the only person running for SBA President. The first thing that came to mind was a quote from Homer Simpson: “De-fault. The two sweetest words in the English language.” The next thing that came to mind was wondering who I would be working with next year. At that same time it became clear that it would be mostly the same people. Almost no one was running for anything.

I’d like to believe that people were so impressed by the SBA’s performance this year that no one would dare think about running against any of the incumbents, breaking up such a great team. I’d also like to believe I am going to have a big firm job, a supermodel wife, an estate in upper Westchester and several well-adjusted children who are wholly self-sufficient by the age of six. Since discontent spurs people into action more than anything else, the reality of the situation is more likely that we did well enough to keep everyone happy, so they could worry more about other organizations and running for those positions. That line of reasoning also leads me to believe that my destiny is to live in a studio apartment in Queens with a dysfunctional girlfriend, working as a public defender and supporting four illegitimate children. I think in extremes, if you couldn’t tell.

We’ve got a great team who

already knows how to work together next year, and there’s only so much damage two new people can do (haha, seriously though, looking forward to working with you guys... ). I’m not too worried about next year, though that’s not to say I’m satisfied with status quo. But to be perfectly honest, I am a little concerned for the following year. If we have an executive board that’s primarily made up of graduating students, that can make the following year awkward for the new leaders. Luckily we had Paul and Jim around, arguably the two most important members of last year’s e-board showing us how things should work as well as how they actually work. Next year we will only have one or two rising 2Ls learning how to run things, depending on how elections go.

Luckily, there is a solution that not only will make next year’s SBA more efficient, but will help the following year’s e-board transition as well: the committee system. Many of the things we did this year were haphazardly thrown together, or addressed on an ad hoc basis. Several times I found myself exchanging emails with the administration or sitting in a dean’s office explaining why we did something without getting this or that approval first. This year and last year the SBA Committee system was wholly under-utilized, not through any fault of the current administration, but rather because we all worked well enough together that we could successfully fly by the seat of our pants, fumbling through the year, doing everything ourselves. Next year, I hope that we’ll be much more organized (I can almost hear Bartov sighing as he reads this).

There is a committee for almost everything the SBA is involved in. A group of two to four people who have very specific things to focus on for the entire year, with the leadership or oversight of the SBA (depending on how involved you want to be), can be far more effective than the seven member SBA executive board and the 1L reps doing everything.

Here are some of the most important committees I hope to take advantage of next year if we can get students willing to volunteer (that means you, reader):

**Student Life Committee:** At the beginning of the semester, we started having movie nights, on alternate Thursdays on the big screen TV in the Solarium, but we could also show movies in LL-07 if we’re ever lucky enough to have that kind of turnout. It was a nice alternative to going out to the bar every week. The first time, we ordered a bunch of pizzas and we showed “My Cousin Vinny.” Despite being a nice evening, it never happened again, because it fell through the cracks. Ideally, the Student Life Committee would be in charge of small events like this, as well as helping with Trivia Night. Paul and I basically built Trivia Night from the ground up, and it was a lot of work to get started, but now it’s just keeping the wheels turning.

**Community Relations:** Currently this committee just does a blood drive each semester, but there’s always room for improvement. There are so many programs at the school that are great for the community, from PTAI’s elementary school mock trial, to the Ron Brown Center’s teaching program, to Street Law’s involvement with Jamaica high schools, all of which this committee can help with.

**Yearbook Committee:** This year they have been doing a fantastic job, and the 2008 yearbook may even be out before the 2007 one. I really hope to continue that commitment next year.

**Public Interest Committee:** This definitely our most important committee, falling under SBA only on paper, but otherwise wholly autonomous. I only mention it here to give some perspective on how important the committees can be with the right leadership and sense of purpose.

**The Forum:** Seriously, I don’t have time for this anymore. Last year it was my baby, this year it’s

my rebellious teenager, next year I need to kick it out of my basement and tell it to get a job. If this were the only extracurricular I was involved in, it would be a cakewalk, but it’s becoming less of a priority as I take on more things.

**Alumni Relations:** This involves coordinating the student-alumni softball game, the Coffee House talent show and working with the office of Alumni Relations to communicate with Alumni.

**Ethics Committee:** All you have to do is help with SBA elections in March and make sure we don’t fix the elections (assuming more than one person runs for any of the positions).

**Faculty/Student Liaison Committee:** Two or three times a semester, sit in a room with six to ten faculty members and tell them everything they’re doing wrong. This is where we have complained about proctors, exam scheduling, faculty advisors and many other things. This committee is the best opportunity for change within the administration. Moot Court, PTAI and anyone else who has experience arguing on the fly preferred. Anyone intimidated by professors need not apply.

**Communications and Technology:** Maintaining the SBA’s website at [www.sjulaw.com](http://www.sjulaw.com). Thankfully, Prabbi has been doing an excellent job keeping it up, but so far it’s basically just an outline bank and bulletin board. There’s so much more we can do with it if people who know how to use the technology are willing to innovate a little.

Getting involved with these committees or holding a leadership role in any of the serious student organizations will help us be more successful next year, while giving next year’s 2Ls some of the experience needed to run student organizations as 3Ls, whether it’s SBA, Journals, PTAI or Moot Court. Or if you can think of another way, in a narrow part of law school life that you want to be part of, let us know. The 2008/2009 academic year can be more of the same, like this year, or it could be a lot better. We need your help though, even if only a little.

# Scenes from the Twelfth Annual Public Interest Committee Auction, March 6th, 2008



**Don't forget about our final Trivia Night of the Semester, April 3rd in the Cafeteria. Email your team name and your team members (maximum of 5) to [PeterRyan1@gmail.com](mailto:PeterRyan1@gmail.com)**

# The Wall

By R. S. Holman

It would soon begin.

Like a steadily rising and never subsiding wind singing across a dustbowl, the storm is plainly foreboding, but there is no escape. Only a prayer for shelter. It's all around her, invading her senses and smothering them. If only there were something she could be safe behind. Months and months of preparation only mean a greater understanding of the approaching horror. A failed fortification would serve as no excuse; instead, it would only serve as an eternal reminder of failure and the ensuing tragedy.

She looks to her left. To her right. She sees other faces wearing her mask of serenity, a telling twitch betraying their apprehension. One feigns a smile so weak that it collapses under its own weight. Another capsizes. She closes her eyes and feels the bidirectional pressure on her face and underneath it. There will be no safety. Options are few; outlook is bleak. There will be no relief. Stand still! And build. Build up.

Someone hustles by. Another shuffles past and awkwardly pauses to exchange concern in a glance. There is no need for words. Communication has become elemental. The context defines the expression and the expression bellows. A crescendo of anxiety rolls to an unprecedented volume and disorients the crowds. Its pitch is poor; tone is dark. A hush brightens the fretfully dense air. She piles brick atop brick atop brick. Maniacally she builds and tears and develops and crushes and awakens a frenzy of energy and shelter. And in the would-be moment of greatest triumph, she falters.

Another brick and she freezes. The hair on the nape of her neck bristles. Her senses fail.

She hasn't blinked in hours. A pink tear runs to the corner of her eye and escapes.

She listens for a welcome noise, and cannot. She concentrates. All she hears is the ocean. Perhaps it is only the vacuum, the edge of space and time, white noise, silence?

She opens her mouth to scream, but her voice swings free. The air is unable to find tension in her chords. Unable to sing. And even if she can declaim persuasively, she can't hear it. No one turns to look, no one touches her arm, no one screams back.

Could the wall be complete?

She gropes for her defenses and swings her body round. She wanders and tumbles and twists, finally roughly bumping it with her hip. She crumbles. Her fingers inquisitively grasp and find the wall's summit. Disheartened, she uses it to raise herself up. It is mere feet from the ground. There is but one side of this enclosure. Her limbs lock up in realization.

Deaf, blind, and mute, she is paralyzed. Whom can she trust? Herself even? Will she expose her own weaknesses, deny herself thrice 'ere the cock crows, forget her confidence, lay waste to her own efforts?

"Daddy, what'd ya leave behind for me?" Perhaps some strength. Perhaps some dignity. Perhaps some sentiment of joy. Potentiality, I am your actuality, but where is my potential?

With a force of rage and determination, she lifts herself up and attacks. Another brick, another inch of safety, another lustful moment, another dose to calm me. Over and over and higher and higher.

"Perhaps," she catches a thought of her own, "perhaps, I can skip my entrée and go straight to dessert—yes, yes, that would be rather ideal." Visions of gin and tonics dance in her head. Meat and pudding. She wants to forget. She wants to be alone.

But nooooo, this isn't really a problem. There's no problem here. Everything's fiiiine. She's never been happier in her life. "Why yes, of course I adore being flogged twice daily. In fact, I'm looking forward to my next good flaying as well." Torture, despise and adore, but don't leave without sampling a side order of dark sarcasm. It pairs up well with the venison.

And with her battle raging on, this brave soul continues to attack. An observer would note that she's quite mad. Another might question her technique and find it brutally flawed. Yet another might attack her gender and even wonder why she doesn't take better care of herself. And in this critical moment, the gods' gift of tragedy, clearly lurking for quite some time, unfolds itself completely and deigns us worthy to witness its vainglorious entrance. Ever the star, never the hero: enter Tragedy.

So this stage, the one on which it all plays out, rumbles beneath each footstep. Existence, love, remorse, pride and pity send vibrations in all directions. You must feel them as thoroughly as I do. She feels them too.

Robbed of simplicity, bliss, and clichéd innocence, our heroine braces herself. She senses the early foreshocks of insecurity. Her trowel is cast aside as it clearly holds no solutions. She spreads her wings and reaches for the edges of the earth, baring her core to whatever might strike her. Infinitely vulnerable, anesthetized and disarmed, she relaxes. The mortar of her security has been unplugged and her carefully planned wall has crumbled. There is writing on the ruins. She opens her eyes and with sight restored reads:

"You have three hours to complete the exam. You may begin."

## "Letter to an aspiring lawyer"

by Ocean Vuong  
ocean\_vuong@yahoo.com

Dear Friend,

do not give up  
for the world does not shine  
the way men have dreamed.  
It spins in the sickness of hearts  
tarred from greed and hate.

It blows elusive like a wind  
snatching at our hats.  
Like a smoke of night, injustice  
seeps through the badge  
and blinds the eye.

But you! You will board  
the cracks within these courts.  
Save the souls where luck cannot  
and those burned by fingers  
whose accusations bear no truth!

You need not strike at crime with fists  
for at your desk  
you will sing the song of liberty  
for ears buried in time and hearts  
thrown across the seas.

There sits more upon your backs  
than Atlas, his shoulders.  
For not only the earth  
but all its love and life  
you must cherish from the wind.

To stare into the fog of chaos  
and grasp the eyes of innocence  
takes a warrior truer than those  
who choose to wield the sword.

# CLARITY

By R. S. Holman

The sun is going down very gently over the age-worn hills of New England. The engine of the bus is rumbling beneath my window but I can't hear it. A band is playing in my headphones and filling the void left by the absence of a soundtrack. It's a beautiful song about when things are right. A tear or condensation falls on my arm. The temperature should tell the tale, but my nerves aren't up to the task. They've vacated some receptors, and quite frankly, I've vacated some high-end neuro-functions. We're just going to take a little break. It'll be fine.

There's a strong glare from the setting sun. I take off my sunglasses to feel its fury, to touch its strength. The band sings a chorus—catchy and universally relevant. It sounds like it's for me right now. It'll still sound like it's for me in two years. But the catchiness will have been replaced with a fresher sound. Rotate your stock, because people always take the items in front.

The gentleman next to me is asleep. I turn back to the window. He had taken a call from his significant other (could've fallen anywhere between wife and last night's hook-up) and was using words like "baby" and "love" with reckless abandon. I didn't mind at the time. Now I don't know what to make of it. I take a moment to look at him. His arms are crossed, but there's no expression. His sleep may be peaceful, it may be troubled. I can't know. His dreams will tell him and only him, and mine continue to be silent.

I crack the book's spine: Contracts. The words just can't capture me, spiraling, spinning, winding and the setting sun lights the wooded hills on fire, burning, burning, burning and it's extinguished. We plummet down an incline, and suddenly, I'm cold. I'm alone. I want to pick up the phone, but she won't answer. And if she does, I'll hurt her. We aren't together. I can't pretend we are. I can't hold on. I want the comfort. I can't handle the day-to-day. So much attraction, so many moments, and intensity, sharpness, mistakes, little stabbing pains, deep gaping scars.

I haven't even heard the last two songs, I push the back button so I can taste the first few bars of each and decide that I didn't miss anything. My next-seat neighbor is still asleep. I pump up the volume slightly to enjoy the steady arpeggios raking the introductory moments of the track. And then the broken man began his crooning. The engine's tremors shake against the rhythm. It unravels the elements of the song and all I can hear are the lyrics, lyrics about the past.

Some people live in the past. They feel sorry for themselves. They don't seek to escape pain, they accept it, embrace it, and complain about it. There are certain events that create inescapable pasts and pasts that are difficult to escape, but many can be relegated to secondary thoughts, to distanced occurrences, to mere memories. People have different thresholds for pain, and the mind, like the body, has its limits, right now, mine's being tested.

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"I can't stay, I can't spend the night, we don't know what we're doing, what's going on."  
"Please don't leave." "Please don't" "Leave" "Please" "Don't leave" "Please"  
Entreaties surrounding me, breaking down my ability to steel myself. Rationality displaced by humanity. Obviously, I care, I care so damn much and that's why I had to walk aw... I mean, it's because I'm so damn selfish that I couldn't deal with a little bit of hardship? Things were going so well un...til they got tough? She wanted more than I could give...gave more than I could? Who loved whom? Who loved what? Ideas and concepts of love, affection, relationship, power dynamics, crashing together like the troubled surf tossing ocean liners and racing

for the breakers only to be violently touselled by more water. And it's as though the two of us had been dropped into this maelstrom together just to see if we would be ripped to pieces together or separately. The final result affirms our mortality.

Tears were streaming, gushing, pouring, raining down her face. And I had made myself granite. The first thing into my bag was my heart. I had to pack it away. After that, those troublesome five senses were unceremoniously shoved to the bottom of my duffel. Because it's hard to remember where your other sock fell when you have a hysterical person begging, clawing, staring. And with my duffel full and slung over my shoulder, I can't even remember if I said goodbye.

\*\*\*

I'm begging death's cousin to take me. At least to spell me. I feel cold, the way they say in the movies after they've been shot ("Johnny, I feel cold," "No, hold on, you're gonna be ok, stay with me, stay with me!"). Perhaps it's because a human needs circulation, and with your eyes gouged out, your ears stopped up, your nose stuffed, your fingertips numbed, your tastebuds dried up, and your heart calcified, the only way to describe the sensation is vaguely inhuman, or zombified, or mostly dead.

Yet somehow through the fuzz, perfect moments, where utter clarity besieges our confused existence, can take the pain of loss, the track on an iPod, the rumble of a Greyhound bus, and a setting sun over the Northeast's chilly hills, and blend them into serenity. Can take your racing breath and your heart palpitations and smooth them out. Can take a life worth giving up and make it one worth living. Because you see in how many different ways everything can fit together and still be right.

## HAIKU CORNER

James J. O'Rourke IV '08

My simple requests  
are never ever granted.  
Thanks so much, St. John's.

Anonymous #1

if none of us work  
then the curve remains the same  
it's your scrabble turn

Owen Heslin '08

Wearing a knapsack  
Teenagers riding the bus  
Thirty-four years old?

spring break was ok  
my outline was a coaster  
I'm failing Con Law

Jessica Healey '08

i so hate new york  
new orleans is much better  
but fema sucks hard

I keep writing these  
but I never; get credit  
Name's Anonymous

Rick Fasano '09

Smoke near the doors, no!  
Health and well-being at risk,  
Instead, eat bad food.

iron fist ruler  
his wishes are my nightmares  
he wants more haikus

Pete Bienkowski '09

Look at my budget!  
So much cash for one event  
but catering kills...

Ari Schnall '09

student apathy  
an awesome prerogative  
stop denying it

Gianfranco Finizio '09

spring break was pretty cool  
i beat guitar hero 3  
never thought of school

Peter Ryan '09

So many Haiku's...  
Where was everyone last time?  
Inconsistency

Anonymous #2

**Sayings From Skipper**  
please honk for me  
THAT is a Family Dollar!  
'Manda sells crawfish?

# Honoring Dean Patrick J. Rohan, *continued from page 1*

paid more.” After graduating in 1956, Dean Rohan received an LLM from Harvard.

After graduating from Harvard, he entered the United States military through Eisenhower’s Six Month program, which allowed for three months of basic training, three months of specialized training, and a five and a half year obligation to the military reserve. Dean Rohan was trained in military intelligence, receiving Top Secret Crypto status for code breaking, the highest security clearance possible upon his graduation.

Immediately after his training with the military, Dean Rohan began his more than fifty year tenure on the St. John’s University School of Law faculty. He started slowly, teaching two credits his first semester, while observing tenured professors teach their classes to develop his teaching skills. After that, he began teaching more credits and more classes, ultimately surpassing any other professor in St. John’s history for the most extensive and diverse courses taught. As of today, Dean Rohan has taught a total of sixteen different courses here at St. John’s, totaling about 45 credit hours—more than half of the credit hours required for graduation (see the end of this article for a complete list of the courses Dean Rohan has taught at St. John’s).

After his first few years on the faculty of St. John’s, Dean Rohan was granted a Ford Foundation Fellowship, and admitted to both Harvard and Columbia for a doctorate. He chose Columbia, staying on as a full time professor at St. John’s while getting his doctorate. While at Columbia, he asked friends and faculty members for input for a good topic for a doctoral thesis. Former Governor Mario Cuomo handed him a six page pamphlet on a new form of real property developing in Puerto Rico known as a “condominium”. Intrigued, Rohan approached his faculty advisor about the idea, and was told “forget about it—it’s a flash in the pan.” Dean Rohan thought otherwise, and plodded forward with a thesis on condominium apartments. Around this time, federal

legislation was amended to allow for condominium apartments to qualify for FHA mortgages. Today, more than five million families live in condominium apartments in the United States alone.

In addition to receiving a doctorate while maintaining full time status on the faculty at St. John’s, Dean Rohan found a variety of other ways to spend his “extra time.” He sat for two years on the New York City Rent Control Commission as the Executive Director, a commission that deliberated on how to update rent control laws, as well as handling the legality of converting rent-controlled apartments to cooperative housing or condominium status. He wrote the Pattern Jury Instructions for Probate litigation in New York Surrogate’s Court—instructions that are still used today.

Dean Rohan has had more than fifty law review articles published, including four articles published in the Columbia Law Review, three in the Stanford Law Review, and one in the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. At various points he taught full time or part time at New York University’s law program, and full time or part time at Columbia’s law school—while maintaining a full course law as a professor here at St. John’s. He was also approached to write treatises on a variety of subjects, ultimately totaling fourteen treatises with more than sixty volumes published. As a result, Dean Rohan is the most published faculty member in St. John’s history, in both quantity of publications, and number of subjects. He has also been frequently cited by the United States Supreme Court. He has also achieved some international acclaim: his work with Judge Edward D. Re ultimately led to his election to a two year term as President of the International Association of Jurists Italy-USA-Switzerland. A more comprehensive discussion of Dean Rohan’s publications and accomplishments can be found in his fifty page Google biography.

Through the years, Dean Rohan also focused his energy on

improving this institution. Prior to 1972, the law program was taught out of a high rise building in Brooklyn. Dean Rohan successfully petitioned the university to build a building for the law program here in Queens. The university then appointed Dean Rohan co-chair of the committee to plan the construction of the new building. After reviewing a number of other law schools in the surrounding states, Dean Rohan (aided and abetted by Prof. Siegel) developed a concept that was then handed to the architects. Thereafter, he raised the bulk of the money to build Finley Hall and the Rittenberg Law Library.

Not only was Dean Rohan responsible for the creation and construction of this building, he continued to advocate for improvements to the building for the benefit of the students. He came up with the idea for the solarium. He successfully petitioned the university to construct a cafeteria in the building. When the building was later expanded, Dean Rohan came up with the idea to construct the atrium on the fourth floor, with the dual benefit of creating more space for students, while allowing all faculty member offices access to natural sunlight.

After years of dedicated service to the school, the University appointed Dean Rohan as head Dean of the Law School in 1980. During his tenure as head Dean, Dean Rohan elevated St. John’s to unprecedented levels of excellence by improving the curriculum, attracting a number of distinguished professors (three of which were former deans of neighboring law schools), as well as one of the best law librarians in the nation at the time, Mr. Julius Marke.

One of the more dramatic improvements to the law school was Dean Rohan’s leadership in bringing about a faculty vote to change the 15% curve to mirror surrounding schools’ 50% B or above curve. This was no easy task. Because of the history of St. John’s high curve, some alumni faculty members felt that raising the curve was grade inflation, and depreciated the value of prior

graduates’ degrees. Ultimately, the faculty decided to alter its curve to put our students and future alumni on a more equal playing field for job placements.

The truly remarkable thing about Dean Patrick J. Rohan is that despite all of his accomplishments, he remains humble. When questioned about his high grades and extensive education, his reply is a simple “well, I have somewhat of a photographic memory—so that helps.” When asked about his extensive dedication to St. John’s, he said “I still believe that St. John’s has given me much more than I have given it.”

Dean Rohan personifies the ideals that St. John’s represents. His intellect and legal skills were developed here, and gave him the opportunity to accomplish great things as a result. He kept writing, teaching, learning, working, improving himself and St. John’s as an institution. Time and again he has demonstrated something that students today need to remember—no one is entitled to anything in this life, it is only through dedication and hard work that true greatness can be attained. This is something I have learned by knowing Dean Rohan, and it is something I will always keep with me.

## **Courses Taught**

### **Required Courses**

- Constitutional Law (4 credits)
- Equity (4 credits)
- Introduction to Civil Procedure (3 credits)
- Partnership, Agency & Partnership Tax (3 credits)
- Personal Property (2 credits)
- Professional Responsibility (2 credits)
- Real Property (4 credits)
- Trusts & Estates (4 credits)

### **Electives and Seminars**

- Advanced Real Estate (2 credits)
- Environmental Law (3 credits)
- Estate Administration (2 credits)
- Governments Regulation of Business (Antitrust) (3 credits)
- Jurisprudence (2 credits)
- Condominiums & Cooperatives (2 credits)
- Land Use Planning & Zoning (3 credits)
- Surety & Mortgages (2 credits)