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THE CAVEAT



VOLUME XVIII

17 AUGUST 1992

ISSUE 1

WELCOME!!!

My name is Kieran John Flaherty and I'm the President of the Student Bar Association (SBA). Those of you who are returning students are probably familiar with me through my work as a Second Year Representative to the SBA and/or my work with Lesbian Gay Law Students (LEGALS). I once again look forward to working with you.

For those of you who are incoming First Year Students, I'm anxious to meet you and wish you success with what may be the biggest challenge of your life thus far. Good Luck...my only advice would be to study as much as you possibly can!

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the entire law school student body, faculty, staff and administration to the **SBA Reception to Welcome First Year Students on August 18 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the Sixth Floor Student Union**. It will be an excellent opportunity for you to mingle with each other and Second and Third Year students. The SBA has also arranged for representatives from each student organization to meet with First Years and have information on their organization available. Food and drinks of the highest caliber will be served. ENJOY!

The second major SBA event is the **Annual SBA Picnic on September 19** in Golden Gate Park. The picnic is always a huge success with several hundred law students, faculty, administration, and staff in attendance.

Everything from volleyball and softball to beer and burgers are enjoyed by law schoolers, their family, and friends. It is an event you can not miss, so mark your calendar now for a well deserved break from the rigors of law school.

This year's SBA is dedicated to making our Law School a better place. Be sure to get as involved in that process as time permits for you. The opportunities for participation are countless. The best way to keep up with SBA and student organizations activities is through **The Caveat**, which is this year under the direction of **Editor-in-Chief Tod Manning**. Turn to it for agendas and minutes of the SBA meetings, plus an update from me on the progress of the SBA towards its goals.

Good luck with school, and see you at the reception!

NEWS TO KNOW!!!

- ▶ The GGU School of Law's Bar pass rate for the Feb. '92 examination was at a record high: **81%** of our students passed on their first try!!!
- ▶ Over 2,700 students applied for admission to the Fall 1992 entering class of 210 students.
- ▶ The first SBA meeting will be at 5:30 pm on 25 August 1992. Watch the **Law School News** for the room number. Everyone is welcome!

An Introduction to the Student Bar Association

by Kieran John Flaherty (SBA President)

SBA, you see the name, or more accurately, the initials virtually everywhere at GGU. Who are we? What do we do? More importantly, how does this affect you, a First Year at GGU School of Law?

Technically, every student matriculated at GGU School of Law is a member of the Student Bar Association (SBA). The term however, refers to the elected body of Class Representatives ("Reps") and Executive Board Officers ("Execs"). SBA meetings are held every other week, usually in the evening, at school. Our function is to deal with matters of concern to the student body and the law school community at GGU.

Reps: Elected by their own classmates. Each Rep has one vote at SBA meetings. There are four Reps each from the first, second, and third year classes, two representing the day division and two representing the night division. The Mid-Year Admit (MYA) class elects one day Rep and one night Rep shortly after they start school in January. This year we are pleased to have the fourth year class represented by one elected SBA member also. The primary function of the Reps is responding to the needs of their constituents by utilizing the SBA as a legislative body to get things done at our school.

ELECTIONS FOR FIRST YEAR REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER!

Execs: Elected by the entire student body, including graduating students. Each Exec has one vote at SBA meetings, with the President voting only to break a tie. The Executive Board performs the functions of administering SBA business. It is comprised of the President, Night Vice-President, Day Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

SBA Committees: The SBA has one standing committee - the Budget Committee. It is led by the SBA Treasurer and comprised of elected SBA Members. The SBA forms other committees on an ad hoc basis as they are needed. Committees are not necessarily limited to elected members of the SBA.

Law School Committees: The Law School has several standing committees for which appointments have already been made. The committees and the number of their student representatives are as follows: Curriculum (2), Admissions (4), Writing (1), Library (1), and Financial Aid (1).

Is this supposed to be funny!?

My bother-in-law told me this one: "The winner of the National Liars Contest won with this statement: 'I saw a lawyer walking down the street the other day and he had his hands in his own pockets.'"

The Student Bar Association: The President's Perspective

by Kieran John Flaherty (SBA President)

As President of the SBA, I hope to inspire a simple, yet effective, philosophy to guide us on our path to enhancing the reputation of our law school and the legal profession, and more importantly the quality and character of our students. That philosophy I have deemed, "progressive pragmatism."

Progressive: of, relating to, or characterized by progress; moving forward or onward: advancing.
Pragmatism: a practical approach to problems and affairs.

It is just that simple. First we identify the problems and matters of concern to us a law students at GGU. Then we utilize our intellect and power of reason to pinpoint solutions. Finally, we activate our talents and resources to bring about change which will advance us toward our goals.

Goals such as improving the reputation of our school. The problem was getting GGU students "out there," competitive in the work force even at a time when the job market for lawyers is tight. SBA Day Vice President, Miles Dollinger, responds by supporting programs such as Public Interest Work Study, and opposing decreases in financial aid funding for Work/Study jobs. The SBA shares the concern of students trying to gain legal experience while still in school. The Research Projects Clearinghouse under the co-direction of ABA Law Student Division members and Michele Shuster, the SBA Secretary, has set up a program for GGU students to independently contract with local attorneys to do legal research to gain experience and connections, not to mention cash. Realizing that the diversity of the student body brings about special needs for many of our students, Night Vice-President, Alex Lubarsky, is dedicated to carefully tailoring communication and curriculum at our school to meet the needs of Night and Mid Year Admit students. Treasurer, Chris McGrath, has demonstrated a keen sense of responsibility toward planning and executing the budget. I also have plans for enhancing the reputation of our school.

I believe that the SBA can initiate many changes to improve the morale of our students. We can start with the physical aspects of the school. The Law School is forming a "space use" committee and we have been

granted our request to have a student representative on the committee. I will continue my drive to make improvements in the areas of classroom seating, washroom cleaning, and auditorium lighting. SBA Reps were elected by their classmates for good reasons. Already they have achieved successes ranging from obtaining motorcycle parking spaces to converting the Law School News (with help from Assistant Dean Egertsen) to recyclable paper. This year the Reps plan to initiate a new system to hold themselves accountable for their campaign promises.

Another major goal: communication. GGU student organizations are, for the most part, innovative, organized, and helpful to their members. SBA Reps and Execs are dedicated, opportunistic, and capable. The student body, however, has been isolated, uninformed, and hard to reach. The crucial link between the SBA, student organizations, and the student body was missing. What we needed was something to create some unity. A forum for an exchange of ideas. A place to turn for an explanation of activities, and an update on matters of concern to law students. Now we have it: The Caveat, under the capable direction of Editor-in-Chief, Tod Manning, and the rest of the editorial staff, hopes to achieve these goals.

The SBA should continue to be progressive in the areas which have long set us apart from other law schools. GGU has a reputation for being a school geared toward "progressive pragmatism."

Attention all First Years (1Ls)!!

- ▶ The election for the First Year Representatives positions will be held in a few weeks. If you are interested in being involved in the SBA and in being an advocate for your classmates, please see Kieran John Flaherty at the SBA Reception on August 18 or call him at home 821-3459. If you don't want to run for one of these positions, then vote for those who are interested. Remember -- **If you don't vote, don't complain.**

Law Library Briefs

by John Adkins (Public Services Librarian)

New Faces of 1992 - Another year, another director! **Professor Brent Bernau** has returned to us after a four year stint down at the University of San Diego Law Library. Some years back Brent was first the Government Documents Librarian and then the Public Services Librarian. Brent has new ideas, new energy, and a tan that won't quit. So we welcome him back and expect great things from him.

Yet another fresh face in the Law Library is **John Adkins**, the newly-hired **Public Services Librarian**. John is the guy who helps you find the answers, or at least where you might take a stab at finding the answers. John comes to us direct from law practice with a commercial litigation firm here in San Francisco. Before that he did reference work at Boalt Hall. He has lots of practical insight into what lawyers need to know. He's new, he's hip, so give him a try. [Please note the author of this article. Editor.]

Same Old Faces of 1992 - No, they aren't that old. **Nancy Hoebelheinrich** still heads our Technical Services group, consisting of **Monica Fong**, **Daniel McLean**, **David Walden-Berg**, and a yet-to-be-hired acquisitions person. These are the rocks -- the foundation -- to the library. Without them, the place couldn't go.

The flashy public side of the library includes **Cathy Hardy**, who returns in her role as **Government Documents Librarian**. She divides her time between the technical processing/cataloging aspects or her field and giving reference assistance. **Mohamed Nasralla** makes the Circulation Desk purr like a Mercedes convertible, and **Ann Wasilewski** is our friendly and knowledgeable **Reserve Room Manager**. And last but not least are the student assistants who keep this place afloat -- welcome back! They are all ready to help you in any way they can.

Excess Access - We have to remind everybody that the access card checkers at the library entrance are there for you -- to make sure you have a place to study, do research, and ensure that it is a safe place to do it. This summer we had a rash of thefts and even an exhibitionist who harassed women studying here. This is serious stuff, and we have decided to try to have somebody check those cards weekdays from 10 am until 8 pm. We ask that you have your card out and ready to show before coming in, so there won't be a big pile-up at the door. Thanks.

Hiring - The Library is currently looking for students for the Circulation and Reserve desks, entry access-checking, and the new Group Study/Computer Lab staff. See Ann, Mohamed or John if you are interested.

Computer Lab - Technology awaits you in the Law Library's newly established Computer Lab, located in the Group Study Room (make a left when you get to the Plaza level copy room). Staffed by Ann Wasilewski and her team of soon-to-be trained assistants, the Lab's use is limited to only current GGU law students. Please be ready to show your student ID when you enter. For now you will be able to do word processing and CALI (Computer Assisted Legal Instruction) exercises here. And remember, this is the Library's only group study area, so expect a fair amount of jawing from your fellow students. Follow the rules, be courteous, trustworthy, honest and brave and it will all work out. Trust me.

Commando Research Alert! - While we don't think legal researchers are involved in any hand-to-hand combat (in this library, anyway), you may have noticed the Commando Research Poster on the pillar to the right side of the Circulation desk. This is our way of challenging you to be the very best legal researcher you can be by (for example) digging deep into the Congressional Record to find that crucial floor debate, or by traversing the unfamiliar microfiche cabinets to get at that session law or agency regulation. Commando Researchers go where they haven't gone before; they take a risk and if they can't find the answer they go to the Reference office. All comers will be answered -- and if you stump the librarian, you will be given supremely honorable mention as a "Commando Researcher" in the next issue of The Caveat. Seeing that John Adkins is brand new here, these next couple of weeks are your best shot at immortality because he's lucky to find the bathroom these days. Go ahead, take the plunge!



Letter from the Dean

by *Anthony J. Pagano (Dean)*

I would like to welcome all of the new and returning students to Golden Gate Law School and introduce some of our new staff persons. **Margaret Hughes** has assumed the position of **Associate Dean for Student Affairs**, replacing **Elaine Andersson**, who will be joining the full time faculty. Maggy was the unanimous choice of the selection committee, a committee which included **Kieran John Flaherty**, the SBA President. I believe that Maggy's background and temperament will make her an outstanding Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Before coming to Golden Gate University, Maggy was with the law firm of **Morrison and Forester** where she supervised and managed legal assistants who provided litigation support services for the recently settled State Farm sex discrimination case. Before that, Maggy served as an associate with two San Francisco law firms: **Feldman, Waldman, & Klein**, and **Steeffel, Levitt, & Weiss**. Maggy earned her B.A. from Northwestern and her law degree from U.C. Berkeley, Boalt Hall.

Also joining the staff as **Director of the Law Library** and **Associate Professor of Law** is **Brent Bernau**. Brent is returning to Golden Gate having worked here as **Membership Services Librarian** from 1986-1987 and **Public Services Librarian** from 1987-1988. After leaving Golden Gate, Brent moved to the University of San Diego where he served as **Assistant Director** and **Head of Public Services** of the school's law library. Brent earned his B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, his law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law, and his M.L.I.S. from U.C. Berkeley.

Brent's goal is to assure that the library staff is providing the faculty and law students with outstanding library support services. To this end, he has recently hired a new **Public Services Librarian**, **John Adkins**, who has a B.A., J.D., and M.L.I.S. from U.C. Berkeley.

We have added two new positions which should improve our curriculum, particularly for first-year students. **Helen Chang** has been retained as the **Director of our Academic Assistance Program**. As in the past, the Program will focus on writing skills, particularly the skills necessary to do well on a law school examination. Academic Assistance is open to all first-year students, all of whom are encouraged to participate in this voluntary program. We hope to have

the Academic Assistance Program augmented by a series of Saturday morning workshops which will deal topics such as: how to prepare for a class, how to outline, and how to write a law school exam. These workshops will be open to all law students, and I believe that some of our second and third year students could benefit by attending these Saturday sessions.

We are in the process of reviewing the Academic Assistance Program with the view towards making it a more valuable experience for students. Both Santa Clara and Hastings have had similar programs in place for some time, and I have met with representatives from both schools to discuss their programs. If you have any ideas on how Academic Assistance could be structured to better serve the needs of students, particularly first-year students, please drop me and/or **Helen Chang** a note. If there is sufficient student interest, I will form a joint committee made up of a few faculty members and students selected by the SBA to further study the issue.

We have also retained **Edith Lavin** as **Director of the Writing Clinic**. She will be working with students who need additional assistance in improving their writing skills.

The 1992-93 academic year should prove quite an exciting one here at Golden Gate. We have four visiting faculty members: the Honorable **Rose Bird**, **Ralph Abascal**, **Franco Ferrari**, and **Peter Malanczuk**. **Justice Rose Bird** was the first woman appointed to the **California Supreme Court**, where she remained from 1977 to 1986. She will teach a seminar in constitutional law. **Professor Ralph Abascal** serves as **General Counsel of California Rural Legal Assistance** and brings a wealth of public interest law experience to the Law School. **Professor Franco Ferrari** is an instructor of Italian Private Law and Italian Law and Languages at both **Augsburg University Law School** and **Munich University Law School** in Germany. And **Professor Peter Malanczuk** is the chair of the department of international relations and public international law at the **University of Amsterdam** in the Netherlands.

Finally, I'd like to thank **The Caveat** for this opportunity to address the students, and I hope to be able to update you on the Law School's activities on a regular basis throughout the year.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

by *Tod Manning (Editor-in-Chief)*

Welcome to a new year of *The Caveat*. My goal as the Editor-in-Chief is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, views, gossip, news, and anything else which might be of interest to the entire law school community. The campus of Golden Gate does not provide an area where large numbers of students can congregate and relax. Most schools have a commons area where the students can meet for food, drinks, and to pass the time. It is very difficult to provide such a place here at GGU, but even more difficult is the fact that many of the law students are part-time and are only present on campus limited hours during the day and evening. The problem is how to provide an effective means of communication between such a diverse student body, the administration, and the faculty? The easiest solution is *The Caveat*.

In the past *The Caveat* has been distributed about four times a semester, or about once a month. The past issues have been very good in their content and presentation, but unfortunately they have not always been useful and timely as a forum for the law students. My goal is to distribute *The Caveat* every two weeks to keep it timely as to current issues. This is ambitious considering the time involved for printing, writing, layout, and editing (not to mention studying). However, with the help of the Editorial Staff: Micah Jacobs, Alpa Patel, and Jordan Rodman, and the SBA we should be able to provide a regular forum for you, the members of the GGU Law School community, to communicate with each other.

Here are the projected distribution dates for *The Caveat* during the 1992/93 school year:

- ▶ August 31
- ▶ September 14, 28
- ▶ October 12, 26
- ▶ November 9, 23
- ▶ December 7
- ▶ January 7, 19
- ▶ February 8, 22
- ▶ March 8, 22
- ▶ April 5, 19
- ▶ May 3

The deadline for receiving copy for any particular issue is 10 days prior to the distribution date. The earlier that copy is received for inclusion in a particular issue, the better the odds are that it will be included in that issue. I will attempt to print everything that is

submitted, subject only to space, taste, and editorial comment.

I am looking for people who are willing to commit to writing columns for *The Caveat* on a periodic basis. The columns would not appear every issue, but rather every other issue, or every third issue. The content of the column would be determined by author, but it would be subject to approval by the editorial staff. If you are interested in being immortalized in print (might help that resume!), please contact me at the office for *The Caveat* on the lower floor of the library or at 442-7000 ext. 7586.

The Caveat will be accepting advertising as soon as our advertising editor gets back from summer vacation. Classified Ads will also be available to all who have something that they want to sell, buy, or whatever. And what would a newspaper be like without a Personals section? Letters to the Editor will also be welcome and will be printed, even if they are not glowing with praise for the job that I'm doing.

ATTENTION!!: Whoever put the virus protection on the SBA Macintosh, Thank You. But will you please take the password protection off of it so that it may be disabled for the loading of other software onto the hard disk!?? ... The *Grade Policy* issue is not a done deal yet. The Academic Standards Committee passed a proposal for changing the low set-means to grade curves with mandated breakdowns for each grade category. There is still a question as to who this new policy affects. Watch *The Caveat* for further information and a recap on this issue... *The Caveat* is looking for lawyer jokes. Those which are printable, will be. Those which aren't will be posted somewhere else. Bring us your best lawyer jokes! ... Don't forget to pay those *PILF Pledges* that were made last spring. You got the shirts, now pay the money... I would like to hear from any of the *1992 Mid-Year Admits* about what they did this summer in regards to law school or legal jobs.

Okay folks, we're here for the duration. Let's make the best of it. We have a very good faculty and excellent students. Some of the things around here may not be the way you want them to be, and if that is the case, then change those things for the better. As individuals you can make a difference in this school, city, country, and in this world. Stand up for what you believe and want, or sit down and take what you get.