

9-1993

## Caveat, September 1993

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CAVEAT



VOLUME XXIX

SEPTEMBER 1993

ISSUE 1

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**Spring Term 1993**

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## SBA PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Alex Lubarsky (SBA President, 4L)

**W**hen I travel I never quite return. I open up and let the foreign soil seep into the thoughts, opinions and experiences that make me who I am and who I strive to be. Magical slivers of far-away places and people pulsate and grow inside of me.

In Europe it was the staggering midnight parade of Spanish villagers marching through cobblestone streets, banging drums and drinking to commemorate the nine hundred and twelfth anniversary of some long forgotten event. In Israel it was the mesmerizing contrast between lively dance and song muffled by the somber drone of military jeeps slithering through an uninviting desert. In Costa Rica it was a natural firework display from an angry volcano spilling orange streams bright enough to silhouette the hollering monkeys in the trees above. In Argentina it was the "asados" in the Andes where gauchos would cook up slabs of steak as thick as phone books and compare scars in the moonlight. In Russia, it was the kindness of the people- suffering from the shortcomings of a failed socio-economic structure yet happy and full of life constantly shouting "Ni Nada" - it's nothing - while insisting on giving me so much of the so little they had.

I studied law - or should I say I studied the lack of law, in Moscow as a participant on the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law program this summer. I studied the law by studying its absence. A new Russian saying best sums up the state of the law in contemporary Russia - "In Russia today, for every law there is another that is its equivalent and yet another that is its opposite - and none are binding."

Russia has no system of precedent and does not publish its cases. Since reconstruction, the parliament and the Supreme Soviet have repealed all Russian laws and the constitution of the former government. I learned how Russian law works by studying the horrific consequences stemming from the depths of a world superpower currently in a state of near anarchy. Strangely enough, studying the absence of law allows one to appreciate the importance of law and its impacts in a new and meaningful light. However, with all due respect to Cardozo Law School - which put on a superb program, my *real* learning experience was complete before I ever sat down with the ten East Coast law student and ten Russian law student participants for our first lesson.

I decided to arrive in Russia six weeks before my legal studies in a frantic attempt to travel as much of this massive and unspoiled country as I could. Not knowing a Russian word or soul, I aimlessly zig-zagged through Moscow, St. Petersburg and Minsk - constantly

accompanied by strangers who would notice the bewildered stranger in Nikes squinting at his subway map in the immaculate Underground beneath crystal chandeliers and oil paintings of Lenin.

Never did it fail that the kind person who approached to help me decipher my Cyrillic city maps would be the same person who would insist on showing me his or her city and then insist on making me his or her house guest. It is this sense of relentless hospitality and charity that I hope I have taken home with me.

Nadeem, a Pakistani student of textile engineering who I had known for just hours used his own money to rent me the dorm room next to his for a week and act as my tour guide/translator/matchmaker/cook/chauffeur -- despite my not too forceful protests.

I admired Nikolai's military uniform hanging in his room and he begged me to take it as a gift.

I forced myself to stop admiring people's belongings after an old Russian General I had met offered me an antique sword from the times of Czar Nicholas II after I had glanced at it between the mandatory shots of vodka and war stories which brilliantly unfolded into a colorful collage of long gone people and places in Siberia and Afghanistan.

Natasha, invited me into her small apartment and would play Russian songs on the piano every night as the borscht and piroshkies were brewing in the tiny kitchen. "Cooshet, Cooshet Pazhalsta" - "Eat, eat" she would constantly shout as I suffered repeated humbling defeats by her nine year old nephew who never failed to put me into check mate before the cheese blintzes were ready.

Tatiana spent her days escorting me through her small Belorussian town - posing for photographs in front of majestic statues of Lenin and mounted tanks emblazoned with red stars. Her apartment was identical to that of her neighbors - and for that matter, basically to that of any other Russian in almost any Russian city - a small two room dwelling on some double-digit floor in some decaying grey and perfectly rectangular building off of some dimly lit, pot-holed street. Her apartment, like every Russian apartment, was equipped with a familiar yet horrifying box known as "wired radio" which is built into every Russian kitchen wall. It is a uni-channel radio that has no off mode- only volume control, and in the days before reconstruction it spewed out propaganda around the clock- today it plays a strange assortment of Tchaikovsky and Michael Jackson.

I mentioned to Sergei, a stranger who had bought me a beer in a park, that I hoped to visit the small village in the Ukraine from where my family originated over ten

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## SBA PAST-PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Kieran Flaherty (SBA Past-President, May '93 Graduate)

### State of the School Address...\*

**T**he State of the Law School is good. More importantly, the state of the law school's facilities, administration, and student body--continues to improve.

When I assumed the office of President [in April 1992] I had a clearly defined vision for the SBA: the promotion of our school and its students through carefully chosen (yet actively pursued) social, academic, and professional programs. I attempted to keep the Executive Officers focused on the "big picture", steering the student body and law school on a course which will best benefit us as alumni of Golden Gate. On the other hand, the Class Representatives bore the burden of dealing with day to day problems. Our philosophy was very simple: identify problems, explore alternatives, and pursue the best solution. Above all, we did our best not to create more problems. It's no secret our school suffers from an image problem. As President I firmly believed our school was best served by patient, persistent politicking with the administration, communication with the faculty, and promotion of our student body to the legal community at large. Here is a quick summary of how we strived to achieve our goal of promoting our school.

Vice President Miles Dolinger headed many of the necessary ad hoc committees which were needed to ensure a smooth daily administration of the SBA. His work covered elections and the school Financial Aid Committee to name just a few. Night Vice President Alex Lubarsky organized several meetings/parties for night students and has tirelessly represented their concerns along with Alison West and other reps. Treasurer Chris McGrath developed and enforced a budgeting procedure and an SBA Financial Responsibility Program for insuring Student Clubs will spend allocated funds judiciously. Secretary Michele Schuster spearheaded Hastings Research (formerly Research Projects Clearinghouse), which provides legal research jobs for GGU law students and helping to spread the word to the greater legal community that GGU law students are ambitious, dedicated, and above all, competent. Let's not forget the hard work Eric Ferraro, Alilda Duangjak, and Christe Carlson put in on the SBA picnic. Perhaps no SBA'er deserves more praise for her effort than Cynthia Eng. She almost single-handedly organized the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless. Kay Paden, Mark Figueiredo, Kirsten Keith and Marti James, plus other representatives pitched in to

help out on occasions too numerous to count.

Non-SBA students served on law student committees from curriculum to admissions. Without them to protect our interests as students, GGU Law School would be a very different place. I would especially like to thank Scott Sabey for getting us new diplomas, amongst his many other contributions!

But the student most deserving of my gratitude this year is Tod Manning, Editor of the *Caveat*. He managed to have a professional, interesting newspaper published every two weeks all of [the fall 1992] semester and several times [during the spring 1993] semester. From the moment he accepted his appointment, I have not had to worry one bit about the *Caveat*. His dedication was incredible. A student newspaper is not an easy thing to produce, but it has contributed greatly to the cohesion and spirit of our student body.

Last year I was part of the committee which interviewed ten finalists for the position of Associate Dean of Students. Dean Margaret Hughes was the candidate who most impressed me, and I am proud to have supported her candidacy. As you all know, the position demands constant monitoring of student performance and consequently requires many unpleasant duties. Despite that fact, Dean Hughes has shown a genuine interest in student concerns. Student Bar Reps have worked with her on issues ranging from Mid-Year Admit Orientation to arranging memorial services for our classmate, Rob [Robert Ammar], who died. Between the Dean and the SBA we have managed to get by some of the "us against them" mentality to solve some problems, to wit, registration reforms (reducing lines with express registration and publication of the full year's class offerings for next year) and a compilation and publication of MYA required courses. Other small victories included, being able to continue limiting access to the law library during finals, publication of exam grade means, and class break downs for final grades. Night Student Reps persisted in making their concerns heard, most of which revolve around scheduling of classes. July will see Barbara Anscher succeeding Dean Stickgold as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. She has already made clear her commitment to the night students' concerns regarding their entire academic program. Dean Egertson and the 1993-94 SBA Treasurer are committed to working out a more efficient procedure for disbursement of student clubs' allocated funds. I would also like to thank Dean Pagano for hearing me out on all issues. It was a great relief to know that he always had

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\* This was written in April 1993. Editor.

## PROFESSOR ENDOWS SCHOLARSHIP FOR GGU SCHOOL OF LAW

by Robert D. Bae

**P**rofessor Michael Zamperini and his long-time partner Clay Burchell made a gift of \$15,000 to endow a new scholarship last month. The Zamperini/Burchell Law Scholarship will be awarded based on academic merit to a gay or lesbian Golden Gate University School of Law student prior to his or her final fall semester. When the scholarship was approved by the Board of Trustees in August, Zamperini and Burchell donated an additional \$500 to make the scholarship available for next year.

The *Caveat* asked Professor Zamperini why he and Mr. Burchell made this generous gift. "You do things to help... The students here are under a tremendous amount of financial pressure, this being a private university, and anything that can be done to help should be done." Zamperini has received nothing but positive reactions from the administration, faculty and Board of Trustees. Amongst the students, this reporter has found that most are impressed. "A truly meaningful form of activism within the law school," says first year student Mark Seka.

Professor Zamperini has no specific ideas or intentions for how the recipient uses the award. Beyond any existing university policies, the student is free to use the money where the need is greatest, whether paying tuition, or existing law school loans, or living expenses. "I see it as an investment in the future. If we are to turn out well-trained attorneys, then it needs to be made easy for them to get to be attorneys. When you start throwing financial hurdles in the way, you're reducing your potential pool [of capable students.]"

The formula for determining academic merit is the student's cumulative grade point average plus the grade in the first year Writing and Research course. In the event of a tie, the applicants will submit a 250 word essay that will be graded by the Dean of the Law School. The grade is then added to the formula to break the tie.

Professor Zamperini has been at Golden Gate School of Law since 1989. Prior to his joining the GGU faculty, Zamperini was involved in all sorts of litigation with various local law firms. After being an adjunct professor the first year, Zamperini assumed the Director of Writing and Research position, becoming a full time faculty member and leaving his litigation career behind. "I took to the teaching immediately. There is something very satisfying about teaching - about, and I know [those] going through first year Writing and Research will find this hard to believe, trying to core down the material so you don't have to then see alot of the slipshod 'I don't know what I'm doing!'"

Zamperini attributes his current position to fate.

Thanks to an unexpectedly high number of students accepting law school seats in 1989, the school had a sudden need for another adjunct professor to teach a Remedies section. "I got the call on Thursday to start classes on Monday!"

Now he feels it's his job to make law school easier and more beneficial to his students. "My idea behind the first year Writing and Research course... [is] that any Golden Gate student can more than hold their own in a law office. You should know how to research various things and you should be able to communicate whatever it is that you're doing."

If the end for law students is to have successful and fulfilling careers, then Zamperini is certainly giving us the means. Does he miss the life of the litigator? It is "like riding a bicycle - I can always go back to it." Fortunately for Golden Gate University School of Law, Zamperini's bike got a flat in 1989, and he hasn't gotten around to fixing it yet.

### The Caveat

*The Caveat is the student paper of the Golden Gate University School of Law. Its mission is to provide a forum for the members of the law school community, i.e., faculty, students, staff, and administration. All submissions are accepted on the condition that they may be edited for grammar, punctuation, and space considerations. Anonymous submissions will only be accepted if the authors make themselves known to the Editor. The Editor will not disclose the names of those who wish to remain anonymous. Submissions may be made in person at Room 223B at 536 Mission Street, by placing it in the Caveat mailbox on the 14th floor of 49 Stevenson, or by mailing it to The Caveat, 536 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. You may also reach the office of the Caveat by calling 415.442.6698. The next deadline for submission is 8 October 1993.*

### CAVEAT STAFF

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Marc Eckardt	Stephen Fry
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## A CALL FOR COMPASSION

by *Stacey Camillo (Co-chair of LEGALS)*

Events of recent weeks have caused many of us dismay. Bulletin boards have been vandalized - one in particular with homophobic remarks, the administration is limiting student group announcements in the Law school News, and the SBA took five student groups' bulletin boards away because they missed a deadline which was printed once. However, it is not important to assign blame, for all of us, myself included, are responsible for what is created here at Golden Gate. My goal is to acknowledge this and get us all back on track.

We are losing sight of what impact our decisions have. What constitutes a successful administration is not how effective and consistently deadlines are kept, or how well minutes of a meeting are taken, or who observes Robert's Rules of Order, it's how well the student body is represented. We should all think about the ramifications of our policies. When groups like LEGALS lose their board space, it results in the loss of a very important educational tool for the whole law school.

We are the policy-makers of tomorrow. Exercise compassion when deciding how to allocate student funds, exercise compassion when you read an article on a group bulletin board with which you don't agree, exercise compassion when using the library's materials, exercise compassion when you disagree with someone in class or in a meeting. The adversarial system for which we are being trained does not mean we need to forget we are dealing with fellow human beings; nor does it mean in order to be effective and responsible leaders, we need to check our hearts at the door. By all means, do not wait to pass the bar to make a difference in our community. One person with a video camera near Los Angeles changed millions of lives, and each one of us - custodian, student, staff, dean, professor - is important and has a voice. When one group has a problem, like intolerant remarks on a bulletin board, let us all work toward a solution because it effects all of us.

Some of us chose Golden Gate because it was a small, private law school committed to social issues both within the law school community and outside in the "real world". We don't yet have a "kind and gentle nation," but we need not mirror that. Make the inside world of Golden Gate a model for change on the outside.

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### SBA President's Perspective

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generations back. That same night he waited in a six hour line to fill his boxy Lada with gas, spending over a full month's salary of twenty dollars, and drove me the

long distance to the village of Lubny - all the while stubbornly refusing my repeated pleas to repay him for the gasoline.

Once we arrived and discovered the village had no directory, Sergei stopped people on the street until, finally, a thermological engineer who worked for the Ministry of Refrigeration led us to the small flat of the Lubarsky family where I spent the day over pungent tea, caviar and herring learning of my family's history from a ninety-one year old kerchiefed babushka who, between stories involving complex family trees and persecutions of Jews, lamented the fall of communism and the clean and crime-free streets that vanished with it.

I met Stanislav and Marina on a train to Kiev. I sported an REI backpack and Sony Walkman and they lugged withering straw baskets filled with the beets, onions and earth-covered potatoes they had failed to sell in the marketplace. We were fascinated with each other. Through universal rolls of the eyes and crooked smiles (and, to be fair, the aid of a phrase book) we spoke an international language and quickly bonded in such a way that "friendship" would not do justice in describing our union.

I never did make it to Kiev. I ended up jumping off the train with them at some obscure stop on the edge of a perfect golden field of wheat in the heart of the Ukraine. We hitched a ride on a horse drawn buggy through the fields until we arrived in the village of Nizhin which I intended to see for the day. I ended up living with them for over a week; planting potatoes, making vodka, singing Ukraine folk songs as Stanislav furiously yet gracefully worked the beaten accordion passed down to him from his great grandfather, teaching their blue eyed pre-schoolers how to spell "Dog" and "Cat" and accompanying them on their trips to the marketplace where the villagers would gossip, compare produce, take turns operating the zoom mode on my Olympus and complain about the Russian Government.

Every morning Stanislav would awake before dawn and walk ten plus kilometers to the nearest well and bring back buckets of water for me to bathe with. He would pour the buckets over me while Marina was cooking pork lard for breakfast. Despite my inhibitions, I politely yielded to Ukraine tradition and customarily washed down the snow-white cubes of lard and raw garlic at sunrise with shots of homemade vodka that made Smirnoff taste like tap water. I tried to give Stanislav and Marina money. They had few material possessions besides their clothing and wedding album - the latter of which they offered to me after I had complemented it. They would not even entertain the notion of accepting my money which would make a world of difference in their lives and that I would barely

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## PREGNANCY: WHOLE LOTTA' CHANGES\*

by Katie Hansen

**W**hen first starting law school, people can barely think about anything else except graduating and passing the bar. I felt like that at least. After a year of studying, however, my husband and I started thinking about life outside of law school and his work. If you could see me today, you'd know that it didn't take long for us to decide to begin a new generation of Hansens.

I was nervous about telling my classmates when I first became pregnant. After all, shouldn't I be concentrating on getting legal experience and networking with lawyers rather than getting diapering experience and networking with pediatricians? I thought the average ruthless attorney didn't have room in his or her heart for children. Would my classmates chastise me for changing my priorities?

Despite my dim predictions, my classmates have been overwhelmingly supportive. They often ask how I'm feeling and as my belly has gotten more obvious, some have reached out to touch it. Several men in my night classes are new fathers, and we talk about their children and parenthood generally. They have been an excellent source of information and comfort for me. Besides the less noticeable new fathers, there are several other law students who are pregnant. For a few weeks we were playing the belly-spotting game. (Of course, pregnant women have less at risk in asking a woman if she is pregnant than do people who aren't pregnant.)

The most surprising changes have not been the physical ones, although it is a little disconcerting to find you can't fit into clothes that fit a week ago. The surprise has come from the change in my attitudes. Before pregnancy I was a strong advocate of women's strength and a firm believer in my own self-sufficiency. I felt that I would be able to handle any problems or situations that arose during pregnancy with the same strength of character and determination that I have always had. I knew myself and my abilities.

These beliefs were shaken about a month ago when we discussed abortion in class. I have always been strongly Pro-Choice: women should have the right to choose abortion and abortions should be freely available. That attitude didn't change, but suddenly I found myself considering what it would mean to have an abortion. I have been feeling this baby kick and getting used to its personality. It is still when I move; it likes to move when I'm still; a cup of coffee will give it a caffeine buzz and it gets first crack at anything I eat. The thought of getting rid of this character struck me as completely horrible. I couldn't ever imagine having an abortion. (To be fair, I have never been in the position of having

an unwanted pregnancy, and these realizations were made late in the second semester, after most abortions are performed.) It was disconcerting to have my formerly strong opinions jarred. I felt like a traitor to the women's movement.

A second surprise was feeling physically vulnerable. In the past when people have suggested I do or not do something because of a possible threat to my personal safety, I have ignored them or taken their advice grudgingly. Now, with my stomach hanging out and my center of gravity thrust forward, I don't feel able to run away from or fight off an attacker. I even feel concerned about someone backing into my belly in a crowded elevator!

Late one night my husband and I were riding Muni home when we were confronted by a drunk (or otherwise mentally impaired) person. He muttered and sometimes yelled obscenities at us. At times he moved toward us in ways that were threatening. Although one good push would probably have put the guy out of commission, I was afraid for my physical safety.

Before I became hugely pregnant I probably would have glared at him. I would have felt I could escape or defend myself if he attempted to attack me. Now with a belly to protect I don't feel so confident. I know I can't move as quickly and that when I do move I am much more awkward than I was before pregnancy. Fortunately, my Muni story ended well with the person getting off the train several stops later, but the memory of my fear is deeply implanted.

Pregnancy certainly hasn't been what I expected. In many ways it has been much easier than I expected: I was blessed with a body that takes pregnancy well. The difficulties have been accepting that pregnancy has changed me both permanently (as with my abortion views) and temporarily (in my feelings of vulnerability). I do not doubt that the changes will end here. In my first year we were told that law school changes people and indeed it has. However, I think I will have changed far more with this child's birth than in my four years at Golden Gate University.

\* This was written in April 1993. Editor.

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## A FEW POSITIVE WORDS FOR CHANGE

by Brian Printz

**I** could talk about the lack of a beautiful campus, the inadequacies of student services, the ridiculous grading system, or even the atrocious color of the law library. However, it seems that these positions are more than adequately represented. What I am concerned about is the reputation of our law school.

In recent years, Golden Gate University School of Law has received increasing recognition as a quality law school. Granted, *U.S. News and World Report* may not be aware of this, but the legal community in San Francisco is beginning to give GGU Law School the recognition it deserves. In fact, many firms in the city prefer students from our school because of the "practical" education we receive.

In reality, almost all law schools use the same casebooks and materials. So what distinguishes one law school from another? One factor is clearly the faculty. It is therefore important to realize and appreciate that GGU actually has one of the most honored faculties around. In fact, many of the professors here are the leading authorities in their area of expertise. The education we are receiving here is, without a doubt, on the same par as the other law schools in the Bay Area.

So why isn't the reputation of our law school better than it is? I submit that by constantly criticizing our own school, we are doing ourselves a disfavor. While I concede that advertising our law school on the radio and on public busses is not helping the cause either, the reputation of this school begins with us. If we can't think of anything positive to say about our own school, how is a prospective employer supposed to?

### SBA Past-President's Perspective...

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an open door for me, even if we didn't always agree.

As you have undoubtedly noticed we finally have new benches and tables for your seating pleasure in the plaza of the University. We suggested "forest green", but somehow wound up with "attention getter blue." Oh well, the point is the plaza level will soon be operating at full potential with lights, study tables, tandem chairs/benches and a fountain. If you can hang in there just a bit longer, we have been promised an individual office space for each of the following on the third floor next academic year: SBA, CAVEAT, Hastings Research, and Student Groups. A lounge area for law students adjoining the office area is slated for opening fall semester also.

As for classrooms, the University and law school have taken steps to improve lighting conditions and decrease

class sizes in order to provide an atmosphere more amenable to learning. With any luck, the back elevator will be working next year.

I'm pleased to announce that I have officiously turned the reigns of our student government over to the capable hands of Alex Lubarsky and his newly initiated crew. Alex has an ambitious agenda, and an equally ambitious group of executive officers to help him carry it out. Best of luck to you all! Once again, many thanks to those who have helped me this year.

### SBA President's Perspective...

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miss. I tried to hide it in books and under pillows, but each time the alert couple would discover the forbidden green bills, they would charge me shouting "Nyet, Nyet, Nyet" and stuff them back into my backpack.

I promised them I would take them to McDonalds when they came to sell at the farmer's market in Moscow. (The Moscow McDonalds is Russia's Disneyland - families save for months and wait in incredible lines to dine on greasy Big Macs and watered down Cokes) - "What's McDonalds?" was their quizzical reply to my offer. At that moment I realized that I envied them and their rich, clean and loving lives. Granted, they had no T.V., reliable telephone systems, computers, convenience stores, nor peanut butter, however the people I met in Nizhin and other places throughout my travels had something of much more value - they had happiness, altruism and a sense of self worth without believing that the memorization of the rule of perpetuities is a prerequisite for such.

How will Russia and the Former Soviet Union live inside of me? What part of this magnificent yet tragic country traveled back thousands of miles with me? I took back no oozing volcanos or tales from cowboys from this experience. This time, I brought home a soothing reconfirmation that human beings are inherently good people and, if those of us in this country can manage to escape the artificial distractions created by our excessive appetites for material wealth that enslaves so many North Americans, judging from the people I had the great fortune of meeting throughout my travels in Russia and the Former Soviet Union, I think the goodness that is inherent in us all will more easily shine through.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW SBA OFFICERS!

Treasurer:	Marie Davidson
1st Year Day Reps:	Adam Ryan Cynthia Skinner
1st Year Night Reps:	Deborah Leason Terrance Vaughan

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

by Tod Manning (Editor)

**W**elcome and congratulations to all the first years! You were selected from among *more than 2,800 applicants* to join one of the better law schools in the United States.

In looking at the records of those who have been accepted at GGU School of Law for the past ten years, I was struck by the constantly climbing medians of the GPAs and LSATs of the incoming classes. Now that the law school has started decreasing the size of the entering classes, those medians should climb at an even greater rate than before.

One of the direct results associated with having an incoming class with high statistics is a higher bar pass rate. A higher bar pass rate helps raise more funds for the Law School, attracts even better students and faculty, and ultimately improves the Law School's stature in the eyes of legal employers.

This improvement in stature comes not just from the higher bar pass rate, mainly it comes from the pride and abilities of the students, faculty, and graduates. Our abilities will be a direct reflection of our own efforts and the legal education we receive at GGU School of Law. When asked from which law school we graduated or where we teach, we should say proudly "Golden Gate University School of Law!"

In most of my editorials, I ended with the statement: "Stand up for what you believe and want, or sit down and take what you get." This statement holds true for everything that we need to do to improve the stature of this law school. As students we can do it by becoming involved in the various student groups, by competing on the moot court teams, by writing to the *Caveat* about issues that concern us, and by becoming involved in student government. As faculty you can do it by encouraging and helping the students to do their best, and by being as good as so many of the great instructors that we have here.

I recommend that this law school start viewing itself as the business that it is: a business that sells legal educations. The administration and faculty should consider the students to be valued customers: treat them well and sell them a good product! Thus, when those customers (graduates) are asked to come back (e.g. give donations or conduct interviews), they will do so gladly.

Like all businesses, the best public relations assets that this business (law school) has are its customers (graduates). The graduates who leave here with a top quality education and with good memories of the way they were treated are invaluable sources of good will.

Each and every member of this Law School community is responsible for making things better at this

school, both for now and for the future. The better the reputation of this school becomes, the better our own reputations become. This process of improving our school is not one which will happen overnight. It is a constant, never-ending process, one that takes steady, concerted efforts by each and every member of the Law School community.

Things have improved drastically at GGU School of Law just in the two and half years I have been here: financial aid is now being handled by the Law School; the facilities are being improved; computers are now available; we have express registration; the MYA program is being more thoughtfully laid out; the tuition and graduation fees have increased (Oops, those aren't improvements!); the disparate grade policy of the past has been replaced by one with more certainty and equity; and academic scheduling is improving across the board. Most of these improvements have been instigated by students. Students who stood up and sought a change for the better, both for themselves and for their fellow students. Please follow their examples and seek change for the betterment of the school.

Next...

This is my last issue as the editor of the *Caveat*. For the past year I have been privileged to help provide a forum for the members of the Law School community. For this privilege, I thank each of you. Your student fees supported the paper, and your writings filled its pages.

I thank last year's SBA officers for their support, both financially and emotionally. Special thanks to Albert McMeen and Carolyn West for their assistance in preparing the paper last year. Thanks to all those who put their reputations on the line in these politically correct times by writing articles for the *Caveat*. I extend my gratitude and appreciation to: Tony Pagano for his support and encouragement; Sharon Styles for her advice and help; Jeremy Blank for telling me the truth; Robyn Gray for being the only friendly voice on the phone when I was overseas and trying to deal with this school; and Florence Spinks for fulfilling the promises made by others in the F.A. office. Many thanks to those who offered words of encouragement, praise and criticism for my efforts with the *Caveat*, I appreciated them all.

In addition, I extend my apologies to those whom I have offended by accident, inadvertence, omission or by my sometimes improvident judgment.

Finally, you can make a difference, so stand up for what you believe and want, or sit down and take what you get.