Section Pride Displayed at Dandelion

Law School Hosts Symposium on Police Use of Force

Maria Luuano ’21 Events Editor

This past Friday, UVA Law Faculty sponsored the Use of Force Symposium centered around the 2017 case of a Minneapolis police officer convicted of murder for shooting a 911 caller. The event was presented by the two attorneys who prosecuted the case—Assistant Hennepin County Attorneys Amy Sweasy and Patrick Lofton. Timothy Longo, former Charlottesville Police Chief and Adjunct Professor at the Law School, was also present. Longo was a key advisor to the prosecutors when they were deciding whether or not to prosecute the officer. The case was highly complex and unprecedented for the city of Minneapolis. It raised issues including the rigor and quality of investigations of officer-involved shooting reports, police training, the use of body-worn cameras, race and immigration, and the challenges of trying a case in an international spotlight. The event was organized by discussing their reasons for making the details of the investigation public as possible. Their office, with the support of the victim’s family and hopes that this transparency will contribute to the national conversation around police use of force and shootings in a meaningful way and induce change in the way these investigations are conducted.

The Facts

Sweasy and Lofton highlighted a number of facts about the case that made it different from many police shootings that make news headlines. Notably, the victim, Justine Ruszczyk, was a white woman who moved to Minneapolis from Australia. Ruszczyk called the police around 11:30 p.m. to report sounds of a woman in danger. Police officer Noor and his partner responded to the scene and did not find anything amiss in the quiet, affluent neighborhood. They parked briefly before leaving the area, when an unknown silhouetted figure appeared next to their car, scaring the two officers. They couldn’t tell that the stranger was Justine, who

Section A had the most energy, encouragement in every section, and could be seen dancing in a circle well after the competition had ended. Section B was up next, and they brought a lot of low-energy hand clapping. It looked like they forgot what their routine was for a minute, but towards the end they rallied and managed some coordinated dance moves. There was also a cardboard sign about debt, but I still had no idea what was going on. Like most exams that end up as a B, confusion prevailed throughout, but there was enough unity to keep that performance in some one’s good graces. At least they played High School Musical.

Next was Section C, and did they ever “C-eaze” the moment with their spectacular performance. In the middle of their popsicle-themed and “highly choreographed” dance performance, there were some attempted cheerleader lifts and attempted birthing of the judges with candy. But where they really shined was the all-male dance to “Taffy, Taffy,” which the judges would later say “emanated sex.” Section C clearly came prepared and it shone.

Next, Section D had an interactive performance of a scene that played out surprisingly well.

“4 get it? Seize? It’s not at bad of a joke as Carpe Donut, ok? They based a whole business around that pun.”

5 It’s a good thing these were only attempted, because 1Ls, beer, and cheerleader stunts on asphalt do not go well together.

The interpretation of “What X thinks I do” for 1Ls showed how friends view them as rich, professors view 1Ls as worshiping them, and 2Ls and 3Ls think they make a lot of Spongebob References. After getting knocked down, they got back up again, and then got knocked down, and so on until they laid crying on the floor. Such is life.

Section E, not wanting to be outdone by Section A, doubled the number of babies they brought. With a concept that might have been about relationships in law school, they linked arms and danced in circles to Taylor Swift, and had another great dance set to “All the Single Ladies.” Section E had a great performance that will set the standard for the number of babies that should be in performances for years to come.

Section F stood out for having the only copy of Black’s Law Dictionary that I’ve ever actually seen in person. With their snazzy coordinated outfits, IRS jokes, worm dances, and giant “J” flag, Section F gets an honorable mention. Alas, the competition was just too tough, but in an average year they would have placed in at least the top 3.

Section G, probably following the advice their PAs gave them, made their skit about the different parts of law school. Their Disney-themed performance was a standout. First, orientation welcomed the 1L class to “A Whole New World.” Then, after

around north grounds

Hearts to all affected by 9/11 and the first responders who work to keep us safe. The UVA community will not forget.

Thumbs down to using plastic utensils while eating their food in ScoCo. With the cafe and get some real silverware. The plastic ones are ANG’s beheading. When you take them, ANG is cold at night. And the planet cries.

Thumbs up to Bachelor in Paradise for almost being over. ANG doesn’t have enough brain cells left to care about losing this many brain cells so often and can’t wait to re-claim ANG’s Monday and Tuesday nights. ANG will miss the twice-weekly excuse to get drunk. Not that ANG needs an excuse.

Thumbs down to the unidentified individual food pirates lurking among us. When you take the food without even staying for the education, there’s less leftovers for ANG. We all know what happens when ANG gets hungry. ANG’s beware.

Thumbs up to Section A. ANG is feeling groovy and boogie-ing down at Dandelion over the week-end. ANG crawled out under ANG’s home, aka the bleachers, for the entertaining performance. What you lack in talent and good looks, you make up for in enthusiasm.

Thumbs down to not having Lila around so much lately. Lisa is the one person ANG speaks to in this icy tundra of a law school. With Lila gone, ANG is almost having a feeling—is this what loneliness is? ANG didn’t know ANG enjoyed another human’s companionship.

Thumbs up to Maria Andreeus, Bianca Andrees- us, and mom, for maintaining her RBF even when her daughter won the U.S. Open. ANG is giving her the commitment to being un-impressed. ANG is similarly unimpressed with the acceptances so-called “accomplishments” unless they involve brushes with the law or consuming copious amounts of booze.

LILMs take home bronze to international acclaim. Photo Credit Kolleen Gladden ’21.

Jacob Jones ’21 Events Editor

Last Saturday, the 1Ls and LILMs gathered at The Park on North Grounds for the event known as Dandelion. The event, which started in 1984 as a calm and respectable parade, has now turned into an amateur rendition of “So You Think You Can Dance” that makes you question whether we really go to a top ten law school. With perfect weather, high spirits, and just the right amount of pizza and beer in their stomachs, the class of 2022 began their attempt to see if they had any hopes for a fallback music career in case any of this “law” stuff doesn’t work out.

Section A (plus) set the standard for the rest of the sections that followed. Their dance, set to the tune of “YMCA,” had a lot of high-energy pointy-heel classic dance moves that don’t require a lot of practice beforehand. Section A got plus points for having matching T-shirts, but they really upped their game by bringing a live baby into the dance. While they didn’t win.

4 Back in my day (2018), we had to walk a mile in the rain from Ivy, and then dance in the same downpour just so we could be boozed up by 2Ls and 3Ls. Apparently, this was the first Dandelion in three years where it didn’t rain.

2 Thanks, North Grounds Softball League!

3 Ed’s Note: the author is biased, given his position as a boyfriend for a PA for Section A. Take his opinions with a grain of salt.

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This past Monday, Professors Julia Mahoney and Michael Gilbert sat in a panel alongside Ms. Elizabeth Slatery and Ms. Julia Mahoney of the Heritage Foundation to discuss influential opinions from the Supreme Court’s latest term.

Slatery opened the panel, discussing general observations about the Court. She noted that last term will likely be remembered more for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s death and confirmation than any of the cases decided. She also noted that twenty-one cases, 28%, were decided five to four, the highest percentage of five-four decisions this term since 1952.

Slatery focused on cases that she deemed “missed opportunities” and how they have, in her eyes, may negatively impact the future of the Court.

First, American Legion v. American Humanist Assn., was a case that was heard in 2017 in which the Court had a case about a forty-foot cross in Maryland. While the cross was built by private land, the government purchased this land in the 1960s and continued to maintain and protected for its removal. In a seven to two decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the cross was a public cross’s constitutionality. The big debate was about the continuing validity of the Lemon test and what test should be used to decide whether structures like this should be allowed on public land. No majority was reached, and instead a plurality that eventually tipped the court—Justices Ginsburg and Sotomayor dissented, suggesting that the cross should be relocated instead of torn down.

Slatery also discussed Kisor v. Wilkly and Gundy v. United States, two administrative law cases with implications for the field. In Kisor, a veteran sought retroactive benefits after being initially denied but then later approved this new benefit. The Court held this was a case that the Court needed to apply statute retroactively. Slatery found this decision rocky because the notice-and-comment delegation doctrine will be questioned again soon when the justices find more cases that are more established in their roles on the Court.

Professor Gilbert spoke next about districting cases the Court heard this past term related to the House of Delegates v. Bethune- Hill and Rance v. Common Council and Wisconsin. The Wisconsin case dealt with the Virginia legislature redrawing district lines, which were allegedly drawn in pursuit of unconstitutional racial gerrymandering. The Wisconsin case struck down these districts as unconstitutional, and the Court eventually decided to challenge the cases on standing. Instead, the Court ruled that the Wisconsin state governors picked up the fight, and the Court addressed the question of whether the districts at issue had standing. The majority, in a five to four decision, said that the Wisconsin legislature’s regulations and practices relating to the matter were “objectively reasonable” and that Minnesota conducts investigations into police use of force. In answering a question, the Court found this decision rocky.

Ruco concerned partisan gerrymandering, where a state’s redistricting is aimed at weakening one political party’s chances of winning and strengthening another. Cases from Mary- land and North Carolina were merged together in this single case, where the redistricting was challenged all the way to the Supreme Court. The Court reached another five-four decision, with Chief Justice Roberts writing the majority and finding that the case was nonjusticiable. As the Court had ruled that constitutionally mandating standards weren’t feasible here and, as a result, the Court could not decide on challenges to these types of gerrymandering practices.

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Recently, I’ve noticed a trend among my peers. Everyone looks a little brighter, a little happier. Is it the relief of being a 3L? The joy of being back in Charlottesville, surrounded by beautiful, lovely law students? Or the happiness of not having to put on a suit to go to work anymore? While all of these factors may contribute, I have a different theory: the rise of the 3L pet. Many pet-obsessed law students take advantage of the easier workload in 3L, getting a furry friend. 3L is considered the perfect time, since students have less schoolwork (or at least, have a better idea of how to balance schoolwork) but also don’t have to deal with the demands of the workplace yet.

With that theory in mind, I wanted to spread this joy across the school, and also distract myself while I wait until Friday to go pick up my own 3L pet (the most adorable little kitten I’ve ever seen). I spoke to several peers about their furry friends (and one particularly hardworking good boy) and collected some advice for those contemplating getting their own 3L, 2L, or even 1L pet. There are so many cute furry friends to be featured that this article is part one of at least a two-part series. If you have a furry friend to be featured, please send me an email: tkegee@virginia.edu.

Brand New 3L Pets

Abbey Thornhill and Sully

Abbey got Sully, her mini golden-doodle puppy, last Friday, September 6. According to Abbey, “I’ve always wanted a dog. Last winter I decided that it was finally time, but never—or if I was going to get a dog in the next few years, it should be while I was still in school so I could have the flexibility to come home and hang with the pup during the day between classes. So, I decided it was time to get myself on the waiting list with the hope of the puppy coming home 3L fall!” Since getting Sully, Abbey hasn’t really slept much or done any reading, but she’s hoping life with Sully will get easier as he gets older. Puppies are definitely a lot of work, so that’s something to keep in mind if you’re contemplating following the pet trend. Thus far, Sully’s favorite thing to do is play with leaves. For more Sully content, follow him on Instagram: @sullytheminidood27.

Jackson Myers and Argo

Jackson and Maddie Roth, Jackson’s girlfriend and a graduate student at UVA’s Batten School of Public Policy, adopted Argo from the Augusta Regional SPCA on August 9. Jackson said, “I grew up with dogs at home and Maddie had always loved them from afar; our Instagram feeds are both predominantly dog accounts. We knew we wanted a dog, and decided that there would never be a better time to get a puppy than this August, when we both had about three weeks before classes began in order to get the puppy acclimated to us and to start doing training.” Jackson also got Argo as a way to encourage himself to care about schoolwork less and give himself a new organizing principle. Jackson said, “Playing with, cuddling with, or even just looking at Argo is like an automatic happiness injection—and he is the cutest, sweetest dog, and every moment I spend with him is better than that moment would have been without her.” For anyone contemplating getting a dog, Jackson said, “Getting a dog (since I can’t opine on cats or any other kind of pet) can add a ton to your life, but it’s also a lot and has to be taken very seriously. That said, 3L is a great time to get a dog, because for most people a lot of the academic pressure is off (so a furry distraction is fine/welcome) but you also still have a flexible schedule so you can be with the dog as much as possible.”

Law School Pets

Sarah Iacomini, Onyx the Adventure Cat and Norbert the Wolf Dragon

Sarah adopted Onyx the Adventure Cat just before starting law school. Norbert the Wolf Dragon joined their cat family in August. Sarah decided to get her cats for companionship and to support her local animal shelters in Florida. According to Sarah, “Onyx loves watching squirrels visit the bird feeder at Sarah’s house and Norbert delights in playing with a piece of packaging paper that came from a shipping box.” Since becoming a cat owner, Sarah loves the stress-relieving snuggles provided by her cats. The biggest difference from pre-law life, Sarah says, is the way the cats have taken over her photos, videos and conversations. Sarah advises anyone contemplating getting a pet in law school to support their local animal shelters by adopting from there. For more Onyx and Norbert pictures, follow them on Instagram: @onyx_the_adventure_cat & @norbert_the_wolf.dragon.

Ben and Grace Bevilacqua and Baker

Ben and Grace got Baker, a standard poodle, during 2L—the day after their Sooners defeated the Mountaineers (November 24, 2018). Ben and Grace had wanted a dog within the next five years, and decided 2L was the best time to do it. They love Baker’s frivolity and curiosity. Ben noted that Baker is particularly good at playing fetch, which is her favorite hobby (particularly in the woods). Ben advised anyone contemplating getting a pet to plan ahead and get the pet sooner rather than later, so they can be trained by next summer. If you want to follow Baker, check out her IG: @baker.the.standard.

Pre-Law School Pets

Jenny Lewis and Millie

Jenny got Millie, a one-hundred-pound Newfoundland/Great Pyrenees, right after college graduation. Jenny always wanted a dog, but her dad was allergic. So, when Jenny realized she wasn’t going to live at home anymore, Jenny “made my puppy dreams come true after 22 years of non-dog life.” Jenny loves never coming home to an empty house, particularly because Millie is so excited to see her when she gets home. Jenny said, “It’s her favorite part of the day (except breakfast. And dinner. And any other time food is available).” Life with a pet requires more planning ahead so you can take care of them, and it’s more expensive—but way more fun. For anyone contemplating getting a dog, Jenny advises, “It’s hard, but you can do it! Get some good friends to be available to pet sit.”

Sully (left) and Millie (right) are different in size, but equal in cuteness.

When asked to smile for the camera, Argo responds “P!”

Congratulations to the new pets! Grace and Ben both 3Ls, got married over the summer.
The Hunger Games ends now. No more shooting arrows. If you want a particular seat, get to class early and claim the seat. — J. Elicegui

Commentary

I

At the beginning of every year, the normally polite, well-mannered, collegial students of UVA Law channel their inner Hunger Games fighters and chaos ensues as the barbarians fight to get the best seats. The Administration’s statute, U.Va. G. St. § 17-89j, describes the School’s seat policy as: “We let students pick their own seats.” Given the lack of guidance and ambiguity in the statute, this Court will re-store order by interpreting the statute against the backdrop of UVA’s rules of collegiality and the common-law understanding of adverse possession. Property ownership, of course, is not a particular seat until a seating chart is filled out or students become accustomed to the seats over the course of at least three weeks.

II

On September 2, 2019, Peeta Mellark arrived for his 1:00 p.m. Corporations class in SL 289. Mellark discovered that a group of three—Cato, Cat, and Glimmer—had taken Mellark’s seat from last class. Since Mellark was late to a page-turner, a collegial chart, Mellark was content to move back a few rows. Mellark picked out a seat and began set-ting in.

Five minutes later, Mel-lark jumped out of his seat as he was leaving his morning coffee. All of a sudden, an arrow whizzed past Mellark’s face, and he realized Mellark jumped clear out of his seat, which ended up being a good thing, because another arrow whizzed underneath him. Mellark looked around, confused and frightened, and caught a glimpse of Katniss Everdeen’s cannon-shot, as it is clearly right as a matter of law under petty precedent.

III

With all statutory analysis questions aside, this Court begins with the text of the statute. However, U.Va. G. St. § 17-89j does not provide much insight until a seating chart is filled out. At that point, the rights attach to the student and the student has a cognizable claim should someone else invade the property right. The School has noticed that the student has claimed the seat, satisfying the open use requirement. The possession is also notorious because the school loses the right to put prospective 0Ls or visit-ers in that seat for the re-mainder of the semester.

In situations where a seat- ing chart is not yet in place, or for courses where the professor does not use a seating chart, the regular rules of UVA Law stu-dent conduct govern. Therefore, students are expected to behave in a civil manner. The Hunger Games ends now. No more shooting arrows. If you want a particular seat, get yourself to class early and claim the seat. If a student arrives early enough to claim the seat they want, they get it. If you aren’t happy with your seat from last class, get there early next class. And, if someone takes a seat you do not yet own, and it up and find a different seat. Don’t hate the player—hate the game. After a reasonable period of time, con-sistent occupation establishes adverse possession even with- out a seating chart.

Justice Calamari, dissenting.

My colleague writes of the interaction between Mellark and Everdeen through the lens of a social “faux pas.” Yet she forgets that, throughout the history of law school, the greatest minds have always had the ones that commit these social “mistakes” every day. Have not the most successful, greatest law students also been the friend-less and socially awkward? Is this even social awkwardness so much as social Darwinism, whereby the strong may take the seats of the weak? Fight-ing for seats is a time-honored tradition, the game of kings and peasants alike, and should be the main tool by which we co-exist with our peers throughout the semester.

I propose that we cast aside the temporary friendships which have long been a tool for professors to gain even more clout over the lives of the plebeians. Instead, we must re-member that law school is about minimization and strength.

1 The law school equivalent of Jane and John Doe.

2 See: Henry VIII, duck duck goose.

Faculty Quotes

G. Rutherford: “From this point on in personal jurisdic-tion, it’s turtles all the way down.”

A. Coughlin: I should get a thermal imaging system—then I could figure out where to buy weed.

M. Gilbert: “People with abs like that actually aren’t that chill.”

R. Buck: “That’s okay. Do not panic.”
Tweedledee and Tweedledum: To Binge or Not to Binge?

In the Law Weekly office, controversies result in pointless disagreement between two equally unimportant editors. These are their arguments. *dum dum!*

Pro-Binge

When Netflix started releasing the Great British Bake-Off an episode at a time, it was the best thing that ever happened to me. I had to be happy. Lena Walsh ’20 New Media Editor about it. Binge-watching is among the things I do best in the world. I truly excel. I watched season three of Stranger Things three times (plus a re-watch of season two) in the two weeks it took my friend to watch just the third season. Essential. I have a specific type of willpower that doesn’t allow me to prevent myself from watching television but does allow me to consume a massive amount in a single sitting. Which brings me to GBBO. This show is my life force. It allows for letting him go so long with my best friend who does not want to engage. This show is my life force. It allows me to consume a massive amount in a single sitting.

Lena has an agonizing week-long wait to see these friendly British faces in a new episode. Photo credit Mark Bourdillon.

1 Also known as the Great British Baking Show to Americans, but I prefer to call it by its proper acronym (GBBO).

2 A quick shout-out to my favorite band (who does not want me to reveal his identity but who recently watched Stranger Things). I had been feeling guilty for letting him go so long without watching it, so I am quite pleased that he is now a fan.

3 As frequent recipients of their goodies, the Law Weekly staff is eternally grateful.

What’s something you wish you’d known about law school before coming to UVA Law? I had no lawyers in my family, so I really feel like I didn’t know anything, I wish I knew first year would be the hardest academically speaking.

What are you excelling in? I’m much busier now, but class is much easier, so it’s a balance.

What would you have done differently if you knew what you wished you knew? I wouldn’t have taken four one semester.

What’s your least favorite thing to do in Charlotteville? Go to Brazos!

If you won the lottery, what would you do with it? I’d open a pro bono legal office and practice there.

What are you looking forward to after you graduate? I guess actually practicing.

If you had Matrix-like learning, what would you learn? Foreign languages. Ideally all of them.

What are you looking forward to after you graduate? I’m much busier now, but I still want to work, I didn’t do all this schooling to not do something with it.

What are you most excited about being back? I’ve seen a million times is played in the background as I write.

What is your least favorite sound? Whining, whether it’s a kid or an adult. I hate whining.

What is the best concert you have ever been to? J Cole, in Charlottesville, at the end of his 2014 Forest Hills Drive album. That was the address where he lived in Fayetteville. He brought Drake and Jay-Z along, it was awesome.

What is your favorite thing to do in Charlotteville? Go to Brazos!

If you were the Belgian Chocolate MasterChef Junior, GBBO demonstrates some of the best parts of people—helping others even in the face of competition, creativity when following tradition is the easy way out, and quick-thinking problem-solving when things don’t go to plan.

Finally, it appeals to me as a law student with a sometimes unambitious amount of stress. I turn to GBBO during these massive amounts in a single sitting.

When did you grow up? Fayetteville, North Carolina. If you could meet one celebrity, who would it be and why? Leonardo DiCaprio, because he’s beautiful and cares about climate change.


Where were you on your favorite place to vacation? The beach, generally. As long as there’s water and a place to lay down, and a beverage (alcoholic? I’m happy.

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What’s your least favorite TV show? Swimming with Dolphins.

What’s your favorite way to eat sweets? Genoise cakes, laminated pastries—to varying degrees of success, of course.

Humanity is the same way is MasterChef Junior. GBBO demonstrates some of the best parts of people—helping others even in the face of competition, creativity when following tradition is the easy way out, and quick-thinking problem-solving when things don’t go to plan.

Finally, it appeals to me as a law student with a sometimes unambitious amount of stress. I turn to GBBO during these highly stressful times of my life, and I let the British summer, beautiful bakes, and soulful tone of Selasi’s voice wash over me. I fired it up the other day in response to my fellowship-application-case-observation-off-school stress, and saw a notification that new episodes were coming.

Well, I woke up at 3 a.m. last Friday to discover only one episode available and a new episode to come in each of the next nine weeks. The outrage! What is this? Television?

Now, you may be saying, “Lena, I thought you were watching in response to stress.” And you’re right. For that reason, this is the best thing to happen to me. New bakers, new challenges, expanding the universe that I love, and in measured doses that better fit with school’s current demands on my time. But consuming the new season in one sitting and compromising other areas of my life was my mistake to make, Netflix!

Anti-Binge

What are you looking forward to after you graduate? I’m not on social media. I am currently reading an autobiography of Art Garfunkel. The last movie I watched starred Carey Grant and Audrey Hepburn. So, it might make sense to readers that I’ve never understood the appeal of binging.

5 The release corresponds with Netflix releasing the UK version which is another reason why this is one of the best things to happen to me, but again, not happy. I’m a horrible, disgusting, spoiled, instant-gratification-seeking garbage person, and I want my show now!

6 What is It All but Luminous? Knopf (2017).

7 Charade (1963), directed by Stanley Donen.

8 An episode of Psych that I have seen a million times is playing in the background as I write.

9 But it’s standard del basic cable, so really what’s the point?

10 See above: I don’t have social media.

11 It was probably like one week, but... it all relative.

12 Don’t even get me started on that decision...
and that if someone comes in with a knitted wool vest over a button-down shirt, he is clearly the smartest and most accomplished student and must be allowed to take whichever seat suits him. So it was with our ancestors, so it must be now. It is our human nature to fight, be it with clubs and pitchforks, or with passive-aggressive looks at the person who is sitting where we feel that we ought to. We must therefore be allowed to duke it out in whatever manner is necessary to achieve seating tranquility. The time for “seat socialism” is long gone—the time for seating alterations, be they verbal or just angry matters under breaths, is here.

The majority should be prepared to reckon with the grave consequences of their actions today. Law students are people who throw off the bonds of social structure, who decide to cut in line because life is theirs for the taking, who go to class sick because herd immunity be damned. We deserve to prove our worth to our families not just in the field of finals, or the field of softball, but also in the field of seating arrangements. Only by knowing who is the best at sitting will the black holes that are our hearts be filled with self-esteem and meaning.

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3. RIP cabin crew and norovirus.

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SUDOKU

Solution

5 6 2 4
9 3 8
1 5 7 6

Puzzle 1 (Medium, difficulty rating 0.60)