Terwilliger Talk: A Chat with the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia

Leah Deskin ’21
Professor Liaison Editor

Last Thursday, February 20th, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, G. Zachary Terwilliger, visited the Law School for a lunchtime discussion with Annie Kim, Assistant Dean of Public Service, followed by a brief Q&A period with students. As the United States Attorney, Terwilliger oversees civil litigation in which the United States has an interest and federal prosecution for matters within the Eastern District of Virginia, a region including Hampton Roads in the southeastern portion of the state, Richmond, and also parts of Northern Virginia. The event was titled “Overcoming Adversity in Law School and the Path to Becoming a Federal Prosecutor,” but the discussion focused on Terwilliger’s journey working on overcoming adversity and more on Terwilliger’s road to becoming a federal prosecutor, as well as recommendations he had for students hoping to go down that path.

Initially, Terwilliger spent some time discussing what led him to the legal path as the first of his family. He mentioned that his dad had worked as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the district of Hampton and then in private practice in Washington D.C. His first experience working in the federal prosecution context came in high school when he interned in a United States Attorney’s Office. But he wasn’t always dead-set on becoming a lawyer. He briefly delved into bioethics while an undergraduate at UVA but, somewhat jokingly, talked about his realization that perhaps that wasn’t the right career for him. After college, he attended William & Mary Law School, clerked, and then immediately began working as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia.

Terwilliger spent the bulk of the event discussing his experience working for the United States Attorney for the U.S. Attorney’s Office and then the United States Department of Justice. He discussed his victim-centric approach to prosecution (he did a lot of work with victims in his career), as well as the decisions he has to make as the head of the office in the Eastern District of Virginia (including decisions related to the delegation of work, as well.

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As a result, there is always progress to be made. While it is true that mass violence toward justice has occurred, there is still much work that needs to be done. In our own profession, there is this day a glaring lack of diversity, especially in positions of power and influence. Indeed, many Black attorneys are constantly questioned about their qualifications, intelligence, and capability, as pernicious stigmas persist over time about Black people. Outside of our profession, we see the legacy of racism and Jim Crow manifest in our laws, culture, and politics. As we bring Black History Month to a close, I hope we are all collectively able to reflect on the dark and ugly past of racism, celebrate the strides we have made and the thousands of brave Black people that made them, and also prepare to do the hard work of breaking down the moral archetypes of the universe toward justice. Happy Black History Month.

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TERWILLIGER continued from page 1

as his approach to prosecutorial discretion). He also briefly discussed his time as head of the Department of Justice in D.C., in particular, the work he did up until the firing when at the beginning of Donald Trump's presidency. He specified for a region containing over six million people is a very serious job, it is what he was doing at "Main Justice." And you thought Biglaw had it tough!

He also spent time at the end of the event answering student questions, providing insight into how to become a federal prosecutor. Here’s the gist: First, you’ve already started off on the right foot by going to such an amazing Law School. Congratulations. Second, consider clerking, it’s a big plus. Third, show an interest in government work. Spend at least one summer working for the federal government at a place like DOJ. Work in the Law School’s prosecution clinic or Supreme Court litigation clinic. In addition, if you choose to work at a firm, the best time to apply to become a federal prosecutor is once you’re a second or third-year associate. After that, you start becoming too expensive, and frankly, everyone starts leaving Biglaw around their fifth or sixth year. You wouldn’t want to be just another fifth or sixth-year associate in a sea of other fifth or sixth-year associates.

Terwilliger didn’t spend much time talking about law school. He mentioned that he felt very pressured to succeed because of his dad’s position, and then he told us that he trained up well in the classroom in school—standard fare for someone in his position, it seemed. For a talk about overcoming adversity, it would’ve been nice to hear a story about someone who didn’t initially succeed in law school and overcame it. One or two glasses of wine into the lace, he made, however, that he had viewed law school as a means to an end. He didn’t need out about the law in school. For all

of those students out there who have found themselves not being a law school nerd and wondering whether they’re cut out to be a lawyer, perhaps that provides some heartening encouragement. You don’t have to love the word “jurisprudence,” the humor of Scalia’s dicta, or visit professional policy questions on final exams to succeed as a lawyer.

Terwilliger concluded by mentioning that he thinks his dad has the greatest job in the world: He does it to get the right thing at work, he enjoys being there for law enforcement, and he enjoys delivering justice for victims.

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VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY Wednesday, 26 February 2020

Big Dad Energy

So uh, "clears throat, adds justs belt" you kids wanna hear about Dad Kibbi? That place was like a graveyard. People were dying to get there.

As soon as you walked in and were greeted by many of hosts a fist-bump was re-jected because “it’s a hand-shake kindya party.” The first glimpse of the party was exactly what a Dad would hope for: It was outdoors and sufficiently cold, there was smoke pouring out of the grill, two tables of games with lots of spectators adding their two-cents, twin kegs barded in ice just in case the freezing temperature wasn’t enough, a playlist any Dad (country, oldies, classic rock, Cali, Dead-Head, etc.) could begrudgingly head-bob to, and plenty of casual shirts tucked into casual pants held up with belts. While general trends of apparel could be agreed upon by all old-man-minded in attendance, a Western flair in fatherly fits emerged as a decisive point of contention: Birkenstocks and socks don’t know about that. Most in attendance gave some attempt to fit the theme, but there were a few that dressed like it was any other day of the week. Their lack of mad—just disappointed.

From a distance any father figure could spot that whoever took the first round at the grill burned anything that could not have been enough people standing around him, reminding him “don’t turn the meat too often; you gotta keep in the juices.” In the middle of laughter over some of classic Dad jokes, one young lady paused and pensively said, "Wait, aren’t some of these people... ACTUALLY DADS?" The next ten seconds was filled with very intent searching for the true Dads among us, but none were apparent. As the deck got overflow-crowded to the point where I even became a point of conversation between the students, a few daring Dads sought to compete for the title of Most Grown-up. At the college days: Spikeball. One armchair expert commented that Spikeball was a great game and all, if Spikeball was this school’s game, I’d be a legend much like the legendary Spikeball himself. As I glanced around, I found the two other families you don’t hate at the PTA meeting. As just like the party was starting to wind down and I wandered over I even as a parent had been achieved, everything kicked back off and in the one thing all Dads say they don’t want and then will murder their first child to protect: a golden retriever. The bestest boy, named Kypo, was the most excited and well-mannered guest in attendance. 12/10. As I wandered past the grill, the title of the Four Tops’ classic playing described exactly how I felt smelling what was cooking, “I Can’t Help My- self.” As grill-master Brian passed along a perfectly cooked brisketwarth, I knew the night was complete. It was getting past my bedtime, so I called my ride and climbed in. Apparently, I had been standing by the fire for too long, because my Uber rolled down the windows and asked me if I was smoking in the car. I have no idea how late those other Dads planned on staying out, but I managed to make it home just as I was about to hit the sack, at 7:45 p.m.

I, the author, would like to thank everyone who read this far if any of your Dad jokes didn’t land; it may be because I do not have any kids. I’m a fuxx pa.

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https://twitter.com/dog_rates

3 https://twitter.com/dog_rates

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bigdadjunior.com
Tweedledee and Tweedledum: Game Night Featuring Funemployment

Funemployment is worth playing.

On Friday, being the lame, over-going-out 3s that Taylor Elicegui ’20
Ex-Feature Editor
we are, I convinced Eleanor and a lucky group of classmates to join me for a game night (seriously under-rated
and unappreciated) over what games to play and starting off with Jackbox’s Trivia Murder Party, we set
on my newest game: Fu-

I thought Funemployment was like Cards Against Hu-

manity, but with jobs and job skills. I was a little off; it’s more complicated than
that, which makes it more fun. First, everyone gets four job skill cards and the “em-

ployer” gets one card per ev-

ery other player (so, if there are five other players, the employer gets five cards). Then you lay out all of their cards down, face up, and then flip over a job card. The employer then gets a few “cusa-

més” to go crazy and switch out their cards as they want, trying to create the perfect “resume” to apply for the job with four cards in their hand. Some examples of jobs to ap-

ply for include private detec-

tive, professional thief, and professional cuddler. Some skills that are available to use (you could use a “resume” for the résumé cards) are “liter-

ally the worst,” “three-piece suit,” and “very Andy.” Once you have a résumé of four cards, each player goes around and gets a story using “resume” cards they ac-

quired, to convince the em-

ployer why they are the best

person for the job. The em-

ployer uses the leftover skills cards to pick up a dump

mad dash to ask each candi-

date a question at the end of their speech.

I was pleasantly surprised by

the game once we got started. I thought it would be too

confusing, but the group got the hang of it quickly and had a good time put-

ting their persuasion skills to work to prove why they really were the true can-

didate for the job. It got even

more entertaining with the

arrival of Lena Welch ’20, a mar-

velous sh*t-talker who man-

aged to roast everyone else’s

lines while also not totally crushing her own. All in all, I

would definitely recommend Funemployment.

If you’re looking for some

other game night recom-

mendations, check out:

1. Pandemic
2. Codenames
3. Wits and Wagers
4. Ticket to Ride
5. Seven Wonders
6. Telestrations
7. Loaded Questions
8. Coup
9. Unstable Unicorns
10. Sequence
11. Funemployment
12. Deposed Tyrant
13. Deposed Tyrant
14. Deposed Tyrant
15. Deposed Tyrant

Funemployment is lit-

erally the worst game in-

vented, ever.

If anyone knows me, they

know I love a good game of

M. Eleanor
Schnabl ’20

Deposed Tyrant

night. However, with that comes

the reality that I am com-

petitive. In fact, my family’s game night motto is, “If you’re not

willing to lose all your friends and family in order to win a
game board, you aren’t playing hard enough.”

You think I’m joking. Think

again.

This past Friday, I visited

Taylor Elicegui’s luxurious

apartment at The Pavilion

on North Grounds with every intention of having a good
time. As Taylor mentioned, we settled on the game “Fu-

nemployment,” so I thought

my goal of having fun was easily in reach. However, I soon found that the game, while “fun” in the traditional sense, was not for hardcore gamers.

First of all, it has the same

problem that games similar to it (like Apples to Apples or Cards Against Humanity) have—the “employer,” just like the dealer in these other games, has full discretion to decide who wins and loses based on whatever arbitrary factors they deem relevant. This allows for rampant fa-

voritism toward whatever party the dealer decides is “the winner” and leaves the losers feeling unsatisfied de-

spite their (aka my) objec-

tively more compelling and better-presented résumés.

Second, the game allows

other players to comment on a person’s resume story while that player is giving the story. While I respect any attempts to win at all costs, Lena Welch ’20 came in hot when she arrived at the end of the night; she had no ultimate goal of winning and just wanted to chug and cause problems for those with the prize in mind. So, I guess I’m less a critic about the game and more a

warning: Do not invite Lena

Welch to game night.

For all you light-hearted

folks who just want to laugh and have a good, noncom-

petitive time, this game would be great for you. I even laughed a time or two at some of the stories peo-

ple built with their résumé
cards, despite my goal of making everyone else’s sto-

ries sound inferior to mine. But, if you take games quote-

two seriously, as I may or

may not be accused of ev-

tery time I play board games, stick to the games of skill that give you the ability to win without the arbitrary ap-

proval of your peers.

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Things that Matter More than the SBA Election

You know what’s funny? Watching people get worked up over things that have zero

significance. That is what most of this column comes out to. I witnessed this

past week with the SBA elec-

tion. Ninety percent of us watched the other 10 per-

cent lose their minds over nothing, from the real
elections. I have paid far too

much attention to the SBA

election, but only because I

enjoy seeing hypocrisy play itself out—people who claim a moral high ground
down to earth like the worms they are, like the worms that we all are.

Waxing philosophical

aside, there are SO SO many things that matter more than

who is on the SBA, and what

actions they take. Some
times people forget this and

begin to write multi-para-

tgraph Facebook posts about the SBA post about who they are going to vote

for on Instagram, thus mak-

ing a mad dash to ask each candi-

date a question at the end of their speech.

Pancakes never let you down and they will

always be pancake places right

around the corner. Pancakes

never let you down and they

are quietly unclogging the

drain. This allows for rampant fa-

voritism of your peers.

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"AirPods, Android knock-offs, Covington AirPod knock-offs—he had seen them all and been burned too many times. He sued to enforce his substantive due right to bother people he knew." - Justice Pickett

I. Despite UVA Law’s reputation for collegiality, the recent advancements in Bluetooth head gear has left various students stunned and embarrassed as they attempt to greet their friends and are shut down by a glaze of disinterest. In this opinion, the Court will establish the substantive due right to bother people that you know at the Law School by issuing an injunction against in-ear Bluetooth headphones in the hallway.

I would like to introduce this opinion by stating that I know this is a hot take. I know that many individuals hate talking to people and seek solace from the miseries of law school in their music/headphones; (2) listening to good music or good podcasts; (3) having particularly good friends. I also know that many cringey shows about comedies? Watching too much High School Musical? 

II. On February 10, 2020, plaintiff Wise was walking down the hallways of the law school when he made eye contact with his Law School friend, Rue D. Boi. Wise looked forward to seeing hi to his friend and maybe even offering him a customary fist bump. Rue D. Boi didn’t particularly care to talk to people, but Wise wanted to bother him anyway. Why did Wise approach Rue D. Boi? I asked him this? Deep-seated psychological issues? A constant desire to reenact scenes of memorable friendship like those in romantic comedies? Watching too many cringey shows about comedies? Watching too much High School Musical? 

III. The right to bothering people you know provides that you shall not be bothered to be bothered and to be in the open fields. The right strictly forbids students from completely isolating themselves from the world unless they retain to a restricted space, such as their locker, the library, or their dorm. It certainly concludes, however, more specifically, a ban on isolating oneself in the world of good music or good podcasts; the right rather encourages people to delve into the world of good vibes.

Wise had had enough. It had happened too many times with too many different kinds of wireless headphones. AirPods, Android knock-offs, Covington AirPod knock-offs—he had seen them all and been burned too many times. He sued to enforce his substantive due right to bother people he knew.

S. Walt: “It’d be giving myself value. It’s like spanking itself. It’s like spanking itself.”
COPA continued from page 4

Hot Bench

M. Eleanor Schmaldz, ’20
Hot Bench with Eleanor Schmaldz ’20

Hi Eleanor, after three years of working on Law Weekly, you are finally eligible to be Hot Bench. I hope you’re pumped! Now, please tell our readers how you like your pizza.

Extra cheese, extra pickle, cheesy crust. And if anyone thinks that’s weird, they can come to Law Weekly, SL 279 on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. to try it for themselves.

Okay, but seriously, what’s the pickle thing come from?

Thinking back, it came from my mom. She’s from a small town called Maysville, Kentucky, and there’s a pizza place there owned by my cousin’s dad (like I said, small town) and one of their specialties is pizza with pickles. My mom gave us pickles with pizza as kids and my siblings and I all love it.

I see! And did you grow up in Kentucky?

I’m from Walton, Kentucky, a growing city about thirty minutes south of Cincinnati, Ohio.

That’s fascinating, so what’s great about Walton?

We had a “ride your tractor to school” day in high school, horse and cow fields that sit next to the country roads, and prominent Southern accents.

Tell us more about that good of Kentucky southness.

Wish I could debunk the rumors, but I do know someone who has married and had a love child with his cousin... But all the stuff about Kentucky bourbon and horse racing is true. Too. People are obsessed. Those are the good things that I like to focus on.

When did you start thinking about law school?

Middle school/early high school, I knew I wanted to come to UVA Law—it was the only school I applied to and, despite that arguably foolish decision, it worked out. My parents both came to the Law School and met on Copley Field, so I grew up hearing stories about UVA Law (but really, about UVA softball). They didn’t mention the fact that the law school here is actually challenging.

So take it you were rearing to jump into 1L softball?

Oh yeah, you can ask anyone in my section. I was the softball gunner, as ridiculous as that sounds. We still have a section team, currently named The Snakes (don’t get me started on the name), and it’s been one of my favorite things at the Law School.

Speaking of favorite things at the law school, let’s bust out an old favorite! What are the 7 wonders of the law school?

1. The snakes that live under the VB floorboards.
2. The UVA Law art collection.
3. Lisa Napier’s sunshine of a personality.
4. The third floor of Slaughter Hall staircases generally.
5. The theft of the RKF bust.
6. The temperature of the VB classrooms.
7. The swimming pool on the roof.

What’s something that would surprise our readers about you?

I’m afraid of railroad tracks. The first time I ever heard about railroad tracks, it was in a story my mom told me about how her horses got hit on railroad tracks. Torts didn’t help much with alleviating this fear. I cross them only when necessary.

What’s something you know now that you would tell yourself coming into Law School?

That it goes really fast. You should only commit to stuff you really care about, because people are always happy to add to your plate if you’ll let them. You have to have your priorities straight, whether that’s student organizations, school, going to wineries with friends, or getting to live up to the 3L stereotype of doing nothing at all.

What have been your core priorities at the Law School?

The Law Weekly, NGLS, and probably my section and my relationships with people here—I try to prioritize time for fun, and school...kind of, when there’s time for it.

What does NGLS do?

So, contrary to popular belief, we do great things. As a 501(c)3 charitable organization, we donate $20,000 a year to ReadyKids, an organization that helps youths dealt with trauma and creates better opportunities for them to beat the odds and find the best life that they can. We’ve donated a quarter million to ReadyKids thanks to NGLS’s annual softball invitational (April 1st this year) and everyone should come out!

Let’s do a lightning round!

Favorite food? Spaghetti. I eat it at the night before every exam.

Anti-Stress Hobby? Sleeping, sometimes working out, and eating too many snacks (if you believe in such a thing).

Favorite word? Malapropism. I very often use the wrong word in common sayings or phrases (fun fact: you “home in” on something, not “hone in”), which is what malapropism refers to (mistakenly using a wrong word that sounds similar to the word you mean). When I use the wrong word and sound silly in the process, I bust this word out to try and cover up my poor vocabula-

What’s one movie that left an impression on you? A Knight’s Tale.

If you won the lottery, what would you do with it?

Pay half of it to taxes—honest, that’s the reality—and spend the other half funding ways to comply about it.

Is cereal soup? Why or why not?

What? No, it’s not soup. I’m a soup expert (you can ask my roommates, I eat soup four times a week). And soup is, by my expert definition, served hot. Cereal objectively does not qualify.

What inanimate object do you wish you could eliminate from existence?

Onions. They’re gross. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve ordered something off a menu that doesn’t list onions in the ingredients and then, surprise, there are onions. The worst.

If you could make one rule that everyone had to follow, what would it be?

This might sound harsh, but I’m a big believer that the only person who can ask hypotheses in class is the one writing and grading our exams. Student hypos never end well.

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UVa Law Split Second Sightings

With so many events happening every week at the Law School, the Law Weekly members are unable to attend every event and provide full coverage of all the incredible work done by student organizations every day. This section of the Virginia Law Weekly allows readers to see more of the happening happenings at UVa Law.

All photo credits to Koilee Gladdent ’21 unless otherwise indicated.
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Wednesday, 26 February 2020

VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

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The Docket

Wednesday — February 26

13:00 – 14:00
J.B. Moore Society Panel on Careers in International Law
SL 278 Free Provided

13:00 – 14:00
Emerging Companies and Venture Capital Club Educational Seminar With UVA's i.Lab
WB129 Free Provided

13:00 – 14:00
Bracewell Corporate Law Panel
WB101 Free, RSVP to julia.mabin@bracewell.com Provided

17:00 – 18:30
The Importance of Local Lawmaking With Mayor Nikuyah Walker
Caplin Pavilion Free Provided

Thursday — February 27

12:00 – 13:00
Gender and the 2020 Election
Purcell Reading Room Free Provided

13:00 – 14:30
Harmed and Protected?
Caplin Pavilion Free Provided

13:00 – 14:00
The First Step Act in Practice: Clay Maupin's Journey to Freedom
WB162 Free Provided with RSVP

16:00 – 17:00
Big Law 101: "Ask Me Anything" w/ Latham & Watkins
WB104 Free Provided

17:00 – 17:30
SBA Social
Spies Garden Free Provided

Friday — February 28

13:00 – 14:00
Rivanna Investments Coca Cola Pitch Meeting
WB103 Free Provided

13:00 – 14:00
Dean Donovan's 2L Professionalism Series: Are You a "Keeper"?
WB154 Free ---

Saturday — February 29

10:00 – 16:30
John Marshall, the Supreme Court, and the Trail of Tears
Virginia Museum of History & Culture (Richmond)
$15 ---

Monday — March 2

13:00 – 14:00
Current Issues in Juvenile Justice
WB104 Free Provided

16:45 – 17:00
Mckinsey: Oklahoma Is Half of Oklahoma About to Go Back to Native American Tribes?
Purcell Reading Room Free Provided

Tuesday — March 3

15:45 – 17:00
Managing your Personal
WB128 Free Provided

The Docket

Wednesday — February 26

ACROSS

1. Factory boss, in a Legal Research and Writing professor? 61. Number of solutions
2. 59. Year or more
3. Reams, as a Tax professor?
4. Shops, for short
5. Uncommon spelling of a common female name
6. European fashion capital
7. UVA Meyer professor, for short
8. It makes bread rise
9. With 40 across, favorite 1602 band of a Trusts & Estates and Tax Professor?
10. Wall-E's robot companion
11. See 5 across
12. Sart, to a Chican
13. "party...Roos"
14. Covered in poussin's? in
15. "The game is ..." - Sherlock Holmes
16. Residents of the largest continent
17. Employee sponsored medical fund with tax benefits, for short
18. Baseball hit
19. Replaces fireplaces and window units, for short
20. "Anxiously where Cambodia drove
21. Minimized, processed tons, to a Administrative Law professor?
22. "A hundred woozles, etc.,
23. Nature
24. Don thrown in Boston harbor

DOWN

1. Hurricane rescue org.
2. Ther's Papa
3. Aggressive, merry
4. Seventh Grade teacher
5. Warren supporter
6. Common article
7. Mythological mother of children, punished for her...in the ocean
8. Altarite protects you from it
9. "of the Dead"
10. Sisters, Mary Kate & Ashley
11. Sallotter, to a Host
12. Common pre-defined, for short
13. "I chat"
14. First name of "thank you, next" singer
15. Geosynclines, for one
16. Hand computer and technology corporate executives
17. Kahului
18. Do not do (to your neighbor's wife)
19. Large consulting firm
20. Willy or Shams
21. Anxiety, where Cambodia drove
22. 1970s British Prime Minister, sanctioned by Harold Wilson
23. Maurice's homeland
24. 2013 Best Picture winner, directed by Affleck
25. Creek prefix, meaning on both sides or two
26. "From Credit Reports to Calculating for Retirement - Managing your Personal Finances" Free Provided

* The author made a mistake and had to include these clues. A proper crossword should have no clues shorter than 3 letters.

SUDOKU

5 9 1 4 2
6 7 9 3 8
4 1 7 5 6
3 2 4 9 5

5 6 8 2 4
1 3 5 7 9
2 4 6 7 3
8 9 5 6 1


Solution

5 9 1 4 2
6 7 9 3 8
4 1 7 5 6
3 2 4 9 5

6 7 9 3 8
4 1 7 5 6
3 2 4 9 5
5 6 8 2 4
1 3 5 7 9
2 4 6 7 3
8 9 5 6 1