



# VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

2017, 2018, & 2019 ABA Law Student Division Best Newspaper Award-Winner

The Dangers of Free Speech.....	2
Mental Health: Secret to Stability.....	3
Court of Petty Appeals.....	4
A Very Romanian Springtime.....	5

Wednesday, 16 March 2022

The Newspaper of the University of Virginia School of Law Since 1948

Volume 74, Number 19

## Op-Ed: Democracy Won-Together Change is Possible

Christopher Benos '22  
Guest Writer

When institutions fail, citizens must act. University of Virginia students answered a call to action by voting – for the first time ever – to reform the Single Sanction of expulsion. This year’s election required us all to work together. This reform is a victory for students, for restorative justice, and for democracy everywhere.

For nearly 180 years, University of Virginia students found guilty of an Honor offense were expelled. Never again. Students made their voices heard, overwhelmingly voting to reduce the Single Sanction from expulsion to a two-semester leave of absence. This vote is historic for so many reasons. Most obviously, this vote ushers in the first change to the Single Sanction in University history. It confirms that institutions can change for the better to address concerns about bias, racism, unaccountability, and inequity. It confirms that every person is worthy of redemption and a second chance. And it confirms that further change is possible if we all work together towards common goals.

The referendum campaign itself was also historic. It brought together, for the first time, a near supermajority of an Honor Committee with a diverse coalition of student leaders, a unified Student Council, and countless community members. It overcame significant obstacles. And it required utilizing every democratic tool available, from a grassroots signature campaign to a specialized working group, to achieve success.

Above all, this reform proves that stories matter. Expulsion inflicts suffering on students and families. It isolates. It ruins financial stability. It reduces students to statistics. And it strips students of their dignity, stigmatizing accused and guilty students as people without the potential to contribute to the University or to civic life. Institutions must acknowledge and address the very real, very human costs of the policies they defend. When those costs are too great, those institutions must change.

This campaign teaches Honor page 2

# UVA Hosts 2022 FedSoc National Symposium



Pictured: Governor Glen Youngkin. Photo by Julia Davis.

Jacob Smith '23  
Professor Liason Editor

The weekend before spring break saw large numbers of formally-dressed students roaming the halls of the Law School—an unprecedented event for current students. These sharply dressed individuals were attendees at the 2022 Federalist Society National Student Symposium, titled “The Federalists vs. The Anti-Federalists: Revisiting the Founding Debates.” For those students unable to attend, this article offers a brief summary of some of the symposium’s events. Recordings are available at the Federalist Society’s website.

### Keynote address

Governor Glenn Youngkin’s keynote address opened the symposium on Friday night. Governor Youngkin was introduced by Dean Risa Goluboff to a standing ovation from a packed Purcell Auditorium. The keynote addressed three constitutional issues. Governor Youngkin emphasized the importance of free expression, telling the crowd that intolerance, the “growing tendency to loathe rather than listen,” was a greater threat to American democracy than the “tyrant” Russian President Vladimir Putin. He also emphasized the importance of the rule of law and praised the Federalist Society for helping to support and develop good judges.

But the bulk of the keynote, like much of the symposium, had to do with federalism. Governor Youngkin contrasted the gridlock in Congress with the productivity of the Virginia General Assembly. While Congress only passed 89 bills in a recent

year-long session, the General Assembly might send its governor 3,500 to 4,000 bills in a four-year term, each bill addressing a single subject. As further proof that state legislatures get things done, Governor Youngkin pointed to a recent bipartisan bill that gave Virginia parents the power to decide whether their children would wear masks in school. Governor Youngkin invited law students to find work at their state capitals, where the government is “working hard,” not “barely working.”

### Populism and the Anti-Federalists

In a Saturday panel discussing populism and the Anti-Federalists, UVA Professor G.E. White offered perhaps the boldest response to the topic, arguing that the colonial era—as well as the current day—was just too different from the late-nineteenth-century period when “populism” was coined for the label to be used intelligently. Old Dominion Professor Michelle Kundmueller thought the Anti-Federalists would have been concerned about populism, fearing that it would erode individual rights and pave the way for tyranny, while Yale Professor Akhil Reed Amar saw their key contribution to popular control of government as the jury, which has lost influence over time.

### Modern federalism

Later on Saturday, a judge-heavy panel took up the topic of federalism in the twenty-first century. Sixth Circuit Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton emphasized the importance of state courts, given the sheer number of cases handled in

them, and described state constitutions as making possible a bottom-up way of developing constitutional law. California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin H. Liu brought up the “federalism discount,” the watering-down effect that occurs when a legal reform is enacted at the federal level, while UVA Professor Julia Mahoney identified takings, eminent domain, and economic liberties as areas where the interplay between state and federal government was especially interesting and increasingly important.


### Plenary federal power

In the symposium’s only debate, Georgetown Professor John Mikhail faced off against Yale Professor Michael McConnell. Professor Mikhail took the position that the Constitution vested the federal government with broad implied powers. He pointed to the fears of the Anti-Federalists and the practices of the early federal government as positive support for broad implied powers, and explained the Federalists’ silence regarding them as calculated to secure support for the proposed Constitution.


Professor McConnell attached more weight to the Federalists’ stance in arguing that the Constitution did not originally establish a powerful, consolidated federal government. According to him, the modern federal leviathan was more a function of intervening historical and constitutional changes, such as the Civil War, which transformed how Americans viewed the United States;


FedSoc page 2


## around north grounds


 Thumbs up to professors who sent out reading assignments during the middle of spring break. ANG was beginning to feel neglected, and needed a hit of that sweet, sweet reading nectar.


 Thumbs up to the students who did an Alternative Spring Break. ANG also likes to feel superior by baiting people into talking about their “fun” spring breaks, just to follow up with a 10-minute description of how much you helped the Public Defender (via Zoom from Miami Beach).


 Thumbs up to the classroom names. ANG loves that we could refer to Brown 105 as Simpson Thacher & Bartlett Classroom, but inevitably will not.

 Thumbs down to everyone who took more than one piece of sweet Student Affairs’ pie on Pi day. ANG does not forgive and ANG does not forget.

 Thumbs down to the return of softball. ANG is here to be a mediocre student, not a mediocre athlete.

 Thumbs sideways to Professor Harrison not having a public Twitter account. ANG can only speculate as to the Cran-Grape fuelled debauchery that will never know the light of day.

 Thumbs sideways to oil prices. ANG is all about rapidly shifting to clean energy, but hasn’t received ANG’s first year salary to buy a Tesla yet.

 Thumbs down to Pete Davidson getting shot into space. Who will continue to inspire Kanye bangers if Skete doesn’t make it back?

# Op-Ed: When Arguing for Free Speech is Really Arguing Against It

Trevor Floyd '23  
Guest Writer

On Monday, March 7th, the New York Times published an op-ed from UVA fourth year Emma Camp<sup>1</sup> entitled “I Came to College Eager to Debate. I Found Self-Censorship

1 This op-ed addresses Camp’s claims directly and as her own since she is the author of this NYT essay. I do want to note that her essay very quickly became a wide topic of conversation on Twitter, primarily criticism of Camp and the piece. Some have expressed discomfort with Camp being the target of Twitter’s ire since she is just a college student who, prior to this essay, had very little online presence or following. I do not know her, but I would argue that she is still an adult who invested serious time and energy into producing a piece for one of the world’s biggest news platforms and therefore she ought to be (and probably is) prepared for the criticism coming her way. Nevertheless, I will also take a second to say shame on the New York Times for laundering this overcooked take through a college student who doesn’t have the resources (or piles of cash) of your average Thomas Friedman to weather the storm, so to speak.

Honor  
continued from page 1

us important lessons. First, change is a collective enterprise. Only together, by leveraging diverse perspectives, compromising on policy decisions, organizing, and voting can real change ever succeed. Second, reform requires action. Doing nothing is a privilege of those with means, power and status. Third, democracy should not be taken for granted. Standing up for meaningful change is essential to preserving the health of our institutions — and by extension, our republic.

Change also carries responsibility — our work does not end here. To all students: demand the best from your elected leaders, on and beyond Grounds. You deserve representatives who listen, who build consensus, who uplift, and who lead with dignity.

Democracy is in danger, both at home and abroad. This campaign is proof that the future — in our hands — is bright. Democracy takes work, but it can — and must — survive. We all are stewards of the future before us. We must listen to and lift up others. We must respect a diversity of ideas, backgrounds, and viewpoints. We must fight for the causes and communities we care about. The fights ahead of us require that we all work together. Only then can we achieve a fairer, more equitable, more peaceful world.

---  
christopherbenos@virginia.edu

Instead.”<sup>2</sup> Camp’s thesis is a familiar one, essentially that free speech is stifled in favor of groupthink at UVA and college campuses across the country. She supports her thesis with a few anecdotes, choice quotes from sympathetic professors, and misleading statistics.

Camp’s piece comes on the heels of the Federalist Society’s National Student Symposium held at UVA Law with a keynote address delivered by Gov. Glenn Youngkin. That speech similarly bemoaned the supposed stifling of free speech on campus, including the suggestion that “cancel culture” happening on campuses and elsewhere is the greatest threat to democracy.<sup>3</sup> The irony was not lost on me that this claim was made at a summit of conservative law students which was given free reign of the school for two days, was opened with remarks from the Dean, and whose organizers and attendees openly and without consequence ignored the uni-

2 <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/07/opinion/campus-speech-cancel-culture.html?smid=tw-share>

3 <https://www.nbc29.com/2022/03/05/virginia-gov-youngkin-gives-speech-uva-law-critizing-washington-politics-colleges/>

FedSoc  
continued from page 1

the Fourteenth Amendment, which nationalized individual rights; the Sixteenth Amendment, which gave the federal government access to the nation’s wealth; the Seventeenth Amendment, which removed a state check on the federal government; the Eighteenth Amendment, which led to the creation of a national police force; and the modern integrated economy, which vastly expanded the reach of interstate commerce.

Space does not allow for full treatment of the symposium’s two other panels, which addressed Federalist and Anti-Federalist perspectives on executive power and originalism. For those who attended, the symposium offered the chance to hear from nationally recognized legal scholars as well as an opportunity to rub shoulders with students from other law schools. But the symposium had independent significance in the fight against COVID: as the first in-person convening of the National Student Symposium since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic—and what I would guess was the largest public-facing event at the law school since then as well—it represented a milestone in the Law School’s slow journey toward post-pandemic normalcy.

---  
js3hp@virginia.edu

versity’s indoor mask policy<sup>4</sup> otherwise used as a cudgel against regular students for nearly two full school years.

Camp cites a statistic that, on its face, seems stunning — 80% of students admit to “self-censorship.” Peel back just a single layer, however, and that statistic quickly falls apart. The study she cites asked students if they censor their viewpoints “at least some of the time” and only 21% report censoring themselves “often.”<sup>5</sup> It does not take much more interrogation to realize the flaw. Some level of moderate self-censorship is a natural and frequently necessary part of interacting with others. I don’t tell dirty jokes in class. I hold back half-baked thoughts in academic environments so that I am not taking up space which might otherwise be filled with actual learning. Beyond that, when self-censorship at UVA is done for purposes of conformity, I would wager that it is predominantly done by students with marginalized identities. Being gay at UVA means engaging in

4 I mean we all saw this, right? At least all of us who showed up to our Friday classes because we were on call did.

5 <https://reports.collegepulse.com/college-free-speech-rankings-2021>

some level of self-censorship in virtually every space I enter, out of both self-protection and an instinct to conform with the dominant culture. I have also, at times, spoken up in ways that make some within that culture uncomfortable and have felt some amount of ostracization for it. None of this means that my free speech rights are being violated by my peers. Quite the opposite.

The truth is that when people like Camp and Youngkin argue for more free speech on college campuses by citing to the reactions and consequences of unpopular statements, they are actually arguing *against* free speech. Camp at one point cites an experience where she expressed a point of view that made her classmates upset, obtusely writing that she “can tell” when a discussion “goes poorly” for her. Camp also references a Republican peer who chooses not to talk about his politics openly because he does not want his classmates to react poorly. According to Camp’s essay, these and other similar stories amount to an assault on free speech and debate. But what Camp seems to want is speech at any time *without consequence*. Perhaps students in class don’t engage in “debate” in the way Camp desires because they recognize they are there to learn, not to be the loudest person in the

room. Perhaps students react poorly to a peer trumpeting conservative politics because they find those politics harmful. Nobody has threatened to imprison or harm Camp for exercising her speech, but she seems to believe that a reciprocation of that exercise is essentially the same thing.

One final point. The header image of the piece is Camp standing in front of the rotunda, with a statue of Thomas Jefferson in the background. Yes, that statue — the one that white supremacists encircled while holding tiki torches in August 2017. Camp rather audaciously calls herself “brave” for the act of, among other things, putting a sign on her dorm room door that was larger than university guidelines permitted in protest of the policy. The people at UVA who are actually brave are the ones who put standing up for what is right over their own comfort. Heather Heyer was brave. Against this backdrop, and the backdrop of UVA’s long and complicated history, we should acknowledge what it looks like when speech actually costs something real.

---  
tsf7n@virginia.edu

## Celebrating Nowruz

Mason Pazhwak '23  
Foreign  
Correspondent



Every year, students here at North Grounds join hundreds of millions of people in a geographic span that stretches from the Indian subcontinent to the Balkans in celebrating a holiday called Nowruz. As with many major holidays, it has different meanings and involves different practices for the wide variety of ethnic, linguistic, religious, and cultural groups that observe it, and so I will try to avoid too many generalizations in my description.<sup>1</sup> However, there are also rich commonalities and fascinating, fun customs that many share, a few of which I will cover here!

To start, it is perhaps easiest to first look at the name of the holiday itself and the date on which it falls. Nowruz is the romanization of زورون in Farsi. This name

1 As someone very much steeped in Afghan traditions surrounding Nowruz, I can remember as a kid comparing notes with some of my Iranian American friends and loving that they celebrated the same holiday that I did while also being confused by some of the traditions that they described. We shared much more than we differed on, but there is a wealth of nuance regarding this holiday that could fill books.

can be broken down into two parts: “now” (نَوَن), meaning new and “ruz” (رُوز), meaning day, quite literally translating into “new day” in English. This is appropriate, as the holiday traditionally commemorates the start of a new period. It does so literally according to the Solar Hijri calendar (یرامش‌هاگ) (ی‌د‌ی‌ش‌ر‌و‌خ‌ یرج‌ه) used in Afghanistan and Iran, marking the beginning of the first month Farvardin (ف‌ر‌و‌ر‌د‌ی‌ن) and thus the start of the new year in a way akin to January 1 of the Gregorian calendar. More generally, it always falls on the vernal equinox, aligning it with the astronomically defined start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere (falling on March 20, 2022 this year). Whether or not it aligns with a calendar new year, the name and date of Nowruz invokes themes of renewal, rebirth, and revival for the people observing it. In coinciding exactly with the passing of winter into the longer days, warmth, and greenery of nature that accompany the advent of spring, it not only fulfills the age-old, universal human desire to have a symbolic moment to leave the past behind and begin anew, but also serves as a reminder of the human link to nature and its cycles.

To delve a bit into its history, 2 This could also be romanized to Farwardin in Afghan Dari.

tory, it can easily be said that the holiday is ancient, with evidence of its celebration stretching back at least 3,000 years.<sup>3</sup> It has its roots in the mythology of Iranic peoples, with the *Shahnameh*,<sup>4</sup> a Farsi-language epic poem, claiming that a mythical king, Jamshid, created the holiday after saving humankind from a winter that threatened to freeze the entire planet.<sup>5</sup> It

3 *What is Nowruz and why do we celebrate it?*, UNITED NATIONS, <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-nowruz-day> (last visited Mar. 13, 2022).

4 This epic poem, whose romanized name, *Shahnameh*, means “Book of Kings” (کتاب‌نامه), is commonly regarded as a literary masterpiece and one of the key cultural works of Farsi-speaking peoples and others in the wider region.

5 Scheherezade Faramarzi, *What is Nowruz? The Persian New Year explained*, MIDDLE EAST EYE (Mar. 18, 2020), <https://www.middleeasteye.net/discover/what-nowruz-explained-persian-new-year-celebrated>; Pardis Mahdavi, *The Story of the Iranian New Year, Nowruz, and Why its Themes of Renewal and Healing Matter*, THE CONVERSATION (Mar. 17, 2021), <https://theconversation.com/>

Nowruz page 6

# Managing Mental Health in Spring Semester

Sai Kulkarni '23  
Production Editor



I want to begin this article by acknowledging the obvious: I use this newspaper to write jokes. I talk about my social life and do my best to entertain. Yet, when you see the title of this article, I am sure you realize this article will be out of the norm. Mental health is not something to joke about.<sup>1</sup> So for some of you, it may seem out of the ordinary for me to talk about this. But for my closest friends, this is nothing new. They know me as someone who doesn't shut up about my own issues; as far as they are concerned, some of them are probably surprised that it took me this long to take the subject to the *Law Weekly*. More to the point, spring semester in particular was rough for me as a 1L—as it was for many of my fellow students in the Class of 2023. It seemed like all of us had interpersonal, family, or financial issues<sup>2</sup> pop up during that time. Despite

this, many of us engaged in unhealthy habits and did not talk to each other about what we were dealing with.

I bucked the trend and spoke about what I was dealing with then.<sup>3</sup> I was told by another friend, when I proposed this article, that perhaps it would be helpful for me to write this with a more serious tone—rather than with my usual humor. So here goes: to the 1Ls in spring semester right now, please speak out.<sup>4</sup> I know it's hard, believe me. But talking to a therapist, to your friends, to your family, to all your loved ones, helps. At times, I have reached into each of those pools and they have each been effective to varying degrees. As I mentioned earlier, I know many people who dealt with their issues in silence last year. And those same people have gone on to tell me that they regretted doing so. I don't want that to be you. Depression and anxiety are, unfortunately, constant battles and I don't want you going to war without your best

support available.

For those of you facing stress from family issues, I see you. It can be hard to share that with the people around you. So many of us hesitate to share because we don't want to play the so-called "Oppression Olympics." Us first generation law students, especially, feel incredibly grateful to be at law school at all, so it is hard to talk about anything we are dealing with and yet feel like we are making light of where we are. I see you. But believe me when I say that there are no "Oppression Olympics" here. The benefit of coming to UVA Law is that "collegial atmosphere" that the admissions office loves to rave about. While at times, the school can feel cliquy, that same social closeness is what makes people more understanding. By sharing, you never know it, but you might open the door to your listener opening up about a very similar issue. I can't recommend therapy enough for this. And if you can't afford it, I understand that too—mental healthcare is expensive.<sup>5</sup> Talk to the school, reach out to find resources that are more affordable, or for a good payment plan. Often times, those who feel intimidated by the price are hesitant to even look at

these potential options. I am encouraging you to go for it. It *will* be life-changing in a good way.

For those of you dealing with stress, anxiety, or depression caused by school work, I see you. There was a time when I decided to simply be in the library, at a silent desk, for hours at a time without social interaction. It felt better to disappear and stress myself out with school work than to deal with any of the other issues I was facing. I understand the double-edged sword of escape and hyper-stress. Talking to your friends might actually make this one worse. With all of the competition and bragging about how much/how little we do, I get it—talking to each other might be bad. But this is where family, college friends, and, again, therapy come in. Don't drown yourself in work. Don't spiral into work as an alternative to dealing with issues. Talk about it. All of it. I see you, and I am telling you, talking about it *will* help.

Finally, to those dealing with worsening mental health due to interpersonal issues,<sup>6</sup> I see you. This is the broadest category, ranging from benign (feeling isolated from friends) to incredibly serious.<sup>7</sup> While I will never

claim to be an expert on all of these issues, what I will claim to be an expert on is talking about them. And I don't just mean my problems, I mean listening to others about theirs. This is the category where communication is key. Feeling isolated or that your friends are turning on you or just that you don't fit in is part and parcel of being in such a small, high academic achievement environment. By no means does that mean that these issues are not serious: they are, incredibly so. Communication to a trusted source, though, is absolutely crucial here. Communicating with friends that you feel isolated. Communicating to your section mates or your student organizations that you don't feel welcome or at home here. That is absolutely crucial. Take it from me, these issues are constant and if left silent and untreated, they can get worse. Once again, I can't emphasize enough, therapy helps. It may even be a step towards getting medication that you need.<sup>8</sup>

The reason this article was written now was that after

1 I fully acknowledge that I do make such jokes in my personal life as a coping mechanism. It is unhealthy, and I am working on it. Something for all of us to consider.

2 And for an unlucky few, all three.

3 Much to the chagrin of, particularly, Parker Kelly '23, Skylar Drefcinski '23, and Brecken Petty '23 who were forced to listen to it the most. Appreciate y'all.

4 This article is directed to 1Ls. But if any 2Ls or 3Ls find this helpful, all the better.

5 This is bullshit. It shouldn't be.

6 Or as some people refer to it (with derision): drama.

7 You know what I am re-

ferring to here. I will not use the terms, but just know you are seen and you are loved.

8 Not a path for everyone, but certainly one that should be in consideration.

Mental Health page 5

## The Return of iTrek

Phil Tonseth '22  
Former EIC



After COVID-19 canceled iTrek in 2021 and pushed the 2022 version back to Spring Break of 2022, eleven UVA Law students visited Israel from March 5 to 12 this year. Complementing the group, the cohort from UVA Law teamed up with twenty-six students from UPenn Law so that both groups could have a more fulfilling group and comingle with like-minded schools.

In signing up for iTrek, I truly had no idea what I was getting into. However, with the only individual costs for the trip being to pay for the flight from the US to Israel, along with a \$350 fee, I couldn't not take advantage of it. How was the trip so affordable? iTrek is actually both the name of the trip and the name of the non-profit that helps to subsidize the trip. iTrek is funded solely through philanthropic and private donations, while also maintain-

ing a nonpartisan nature by not accepting government donations. The trips to Israel aren't solely for law students either, as iTrek also supports programs for business and public policy graduate students. But, back to my continuing personal use of the *Law Weekly* to talk about my social life.

Choosing to spend the only real Spring Break I got as a 3L on a semi-educational trip, rather than visiting Aruba or a similar location, was a tough sell initially. After realistically evaluating the situation, though, I knew I'd probably never get another chance to take a week-long vacation to Israel, let alone tour the sites I was able to see during the week I was there. The memories of taking a scooter down the beach of Tel-Aviv, to placing a note in the Western Wall, to visiting both Palestine and the Gaza Strip to attempt to understand both sides of the current conflict in the region, are life-changing.

By now, you're probably thinking this trip was all briefings and meetings with

various important speakers who attempted to pass on their views to law students and change their opinion on the region. That's slightly correct. To iTrek's (and the UVA/Penn law leaders') credit, we heard from speakers on all sides of the issues. We visited with members of



Photo Courtesy of Phil Tonseth '22

the Israeli Defense Force, Supreme Court, and journalists who supported and defended the Israeli positions on multiple different issues affecting their country. Conversely, we also visited the Palestinian Chief Prosecutor and Attorney General, toured a refugee camp, and walked the separation wall that divides East and West Jerusalem with a Palestinian resident to attempt to understand the complex divide between the two regions. Kara Kwert, one of the UVA leaders, spoke to this diverse programming. "In planning the trip, it was crucial for us

to provide as many perspectives as possible in a week-long trip. We encouraged our participants to bring diverse backgrounds, to really engage with the complexities on the ground, and to ask tough questions. There is always more to learn, but this opportunity was a great start."

We also did a lot of fun activities to balance out the trip and make it Spring Break "worthy." Driving through the Golan Heights on the first day on ATVs was only the start. We spent the last afternoon in Israel floating in the Dead Sea, taking a tour of Tel-Aviv on electric scooters, walking the Old City of Jerusalem, attending a service at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and going to a mixer with a prominent Israeli law firm. Plus, iTrek provided a professional photographer to document our trip half of the time, so all of the attendees were able to really enjoy various moments without having to live on their phones.<sup>1</sup>

Jeffrey Stiles, another of UVA Law's leaders for this year's trip, reflected by saying, "[A]ttending this year's iTrek felt like a culmination of several years of waiting, especially after the challenges faced this year in plan-

1 Plus, we all got pretty dope new headshots and dating profile pics. It was a win-win all around.

iTrek page 6

## LL.M. Spotlight



Raneen Farooq '22

Raneen grew up in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan. She graduated with a LL.B. from King's College London in 2018 and spent an additional year in London to complete a LL.M. specializing in corporate transactions and negotiation. Prior to starting the LL.M. program at UVA, she worked as a pre-litigation settlement negotiator on the General Motors in-house legal team and passed the July 2021 New York State Bar Exam.



Photo Courtesy of Phil Tonseth '22

# LAW WEEKLY FEATURE: Court of Petty Appeals

The Court of Petty Appeals is the highest appellate jurisdiction court at UVA Law. The Court has the power to review any and all decisions, conflicts, and disputes that arise involving, either directly, indirectly, or tangentially, the Law School or its students. The Court comprises eight associate justices and one Chief Justice. Opinions shall be released periodically and only in the official court reporter: the Virginia Law Weekly. Please email a brief summary of any and all conflicts to [dl9uh@virginia.edu](mailto:dl9uh@virginia.edu)

*Butthurt Barristers v. Dirt-Cheap Deans*  
74 U.Va 19 (2022)

MORSE, J. delivers the opinion of the court, in which PAZSWAK, J., GRUBBE, J., LAKE, C.J., REYNA, J. PETERSON, J., KULKARNI, J., MARTIN, J., and ROSCOE, J. join.

### I. Holding

It is a wise parent who knows their own child.<sup>1</sup> The case before us today asks whether the University of Virginia School of Law knows their children (a.k.a., students) at all. Petitioners, the entire student body of the Law School, urge this court to find that the Law School's failure to provide as much "stuff" as Darden students receive demonstrates that the school either doesn't care about making law students feel special, or doesn't know them at all. As petitioners assert, "obviously we want more fancy stuff." Respondent, the Law School Administration, argues that it is in the business of running one of the leading law schools in the country and its legitimate business interests trump "students' feelings about whether their toys are as shiny as Darden's." Respondent further argues that even if they are at fault, Petitioners seek an inappropriate remedy, and students should just dump their feelings of deep personal inadequacy on an unsuspecting Uber driver like normal people do.

We disagree and affirm the district court's finding that the Law School is guilty of negligent supervision and intentionally inflicted emotional distress ("IIED").

### II. Factual and Procedural Background

Petitioners filed this suit

1 The Merchant of Venice, Act 2, Sc. 2. That's right, a Shakespeare quote in the VERY FIRST LINE.

after becoming aware of significant differences between the resources that Law School students receive compared to Darden students. For evidence, the petitioners point to the fact that Darden students receive free, high-quality coffee every day until noon, get way tastier free snacks,<sup>2</sup> tons of swag,<sup>3</sup> have their own freakin' hotel, and generally have "so many fancy banquets and open bars." The Petitioners argue that the difference in the quantity and quality of free stuff, contrasted with the Law School's great rankings,<sup>4</sup> amount to negligent super-

School contends that while its only actual obligation is to provide a world-class education, it does offer several coffee options at various prices, free snacks most of the time, and cookies on some Fridays.

Petitioners initially brought suit in the District Court of Petty Appeals, which decided for the Petitioners and awarded damages in the form of "snacks, coffee, and other free stuff at least as nice as Darden's." The Respondents won a reversal on appeal to the Circuit Court of Petty Appeals, which noted that "this is getting ridiculous" and that

relative to another graduate school can violate this duty.

### III. Discussion

We will address the question in two parts. First, we find that the Law School does have a duty to make its students feel special. The source of this duty is found in long-standing principles of common law. As Justice Holmes articulated, "The first requirement of a sound body of law is, that it should correspond with the actual feelings and demands of the community, whether right or wrong."<sup>7</sup> Clearly, the student body, which comprises the largest portion of our commu-

which supports finding a duty when it aligns with majoritarian preferences.<sup>8</sup>

Next, we turn to whether the alleged disparities between what Darden students receive and what Law School students receive can violate this duty. We may as well ask ourselves whether a three-legged dog swims in a circle.<sup>9</sup> In this case specifically, the relevant instrumentalities of the Law School are fully under the Law School's control. Whether there are Friday cookies, regular Cheez-Its or amazing Cheez-Its, or a hotel,<sup>10</sup> are all decisions made by the Law School Administration. Their failure to rectify the imbalance in snacks, major construction projects, columns, and Patagonias is more than sufficient to constitute a dereliction of their duty to make students feel special.

At its end, this case turns

8 Or at least, what we think majoritarian preferences ought to be. Shout out to Professor Gulati, hopefully this is the correct takeaway from Nanakuli and Vokes!

9 The answer is yes. Quick thanks to the Texans (or as I call them, Cowboy Cardozos) who have truly enriched and expanded my vocabulary.

10 This would of course house all the family and friends who TOTALLY want to come visit the over-caffeinated law student in their life.

COPA page 5

*Clearly the student body, which comprises the largest portion of the community, feels that the Law School should make them feel special.*

vision and IIED.<sup>5</sup> The Law

2 This suit was filed prior to the Student Affairs office introducing the new Cheez-its. During oral argument, Petitioners acknowledged that these were "nucking futs" and "worth every dime of tuition."

3 There were repeated references to a "Darden Patagonia". When pressed on the point in oral argument, it was unclear whether Petitioners wanted their own Law School Patagonias, or if they just wanted the Law School to purchase Darden Patagonias and provide them to law students free of charge.

4 The Petitioners devoted an exhaustive (and truly exhausting) fourteen pages of their brief to an analysis of U.S. News & World Report rankings among law schools and business schools.

5 Worth noting here is the Law School's argument that

the courts were not designed to resolve "petty temper tantrums from over-privileged graduate students."<sup>6</sup> The students appealed to this Court, and we granted certiorari on the question of whether a Law School has an affirmative duty to make its students feel special and whether a disparity in amenities and "swagoo"

these two counts amount to an illogical conflation of mutually exclusive causes of action, violating the maxim that "even a dog distinguishes between being stumbled over and being kicked." The students responded that they feel both stumbled over and/or kicked, depending on the day.

6 The Circuit Court erred here not because it mischaracterized the nature of this suit, but because it failed to recognize that since our primary source of subject matter jurisdiction is pettiness, we are in fact impelled to hear this case because it is so, so petty.

nity, feels that the Law School should make them feel special. In fact, some of the plaintiff class went so far as to demand a one-on-one relationship of one-sided support and affirmation, including a requirement that each administrator follow them on Instagram and "finally accept my find-my-friends request." While even this Court is reluctant to extend judicial coverage to anything that the student body decides it wants, we are comforted by a highly non-formalist theory of contract law

7 Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., *The Common Law*, 1881.

## Faculty Quotes

**A. Hodges:** "This movie is based off of Jimmy Hoffa, who is apparently buried under the Giants Stadium."

**B. Armacost:** "We just had a death, the death of a bug. Do we need a moment of silence? Was that a tort?"

**M. Gulati:** "Every once in a while you get a student answer, and you just go 'Man, I hate this person. Their answer is better than my draft.'"

**M. Collins:** "I've taught this problem for 14 years and someday I'll teach it in an understandable way."

**C. Jaffe:** "'Maybe I'm an optimist but I'm going to put 'sun rising' as higher than 'highly probable'" (in response to student comment)

**J. Johnston:** "The way math works is that anything you imagine can be true."

Heard a good professor quote? Email us at [editor@lawweekly.org](mailto:editor@lawweekly.org)

## Virginia Law Weekly

### COLOPHON

**Dana Lake '23**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Jon Peterson '23**  
Co- Executive Editor

**Sai Kulkarni '23**  
Production Editor

**Julia D'Rozario '24**  
New Media Editor

**Caleb Stephens '22**  
Technology Editor

**Devon Chenelle '23**  
Prose Style Editor

**Monica Sandu '24**  
Co- Executive Editor

**Anna Bninski '23**  
Features Editor

**Jackson Grubbe '23**  
Satire Editor

**Mason Pazhwak '23**  
Foreign Correspondent Editor

**Will Holt '23**  
Opinions Editor

**Jacob Smith '23**  
Professor Liaison Editor

**Nikolai Morse '24**  
Managing Editor

**Jack Brown '23**  
Sports Editor

**Rachel Martin '23**  
Copy Editor

**Anne Reyna '23**  
Pop Culture Liason Editor

**Clint Roscoe '23**  
Entertainment Editor

Published weekly on Wednesday except during holiday and examination periods and serving the Law School community at the University of Virginia, the *Virginia Law Weekly* (ISSN 0042-661X) is not an official publication of the University and does not necessarily express the views of the University. Any article appearing herein may be reproduced provided that credit is given to both the *Virginia Law Weekly* and the author of the article. Advanced written permission of the *Virginia Law Weekly* is also required for reproduction of any cartoon or illustration.

Virginia Law Weekly  
580 Massie Road  
University of Virginia School of Law  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903-1789

Phone: 434.812.3229  
editor@lawweekly.org  
www.lawweekly.org

**EDITORIAL POLICY:** The *Virginia Law Weekly* publishes letters and columns of interest to the Law School and the legal community at large. Views expressed in such submissions are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the *Law Weekly* or the Editorial Board. Letters from organizations must bear the name, signature, and title of the person authorizing the submission. All letters and columns must either be submitted in hardcopy bearing a handwritten signature along with an electronic version, or be mailed from the author's e-mail account. Submissions must be received by 12 p.m. Sunday before publication and must be in accordance with the submission guidelines. Letters and/or columns over 1200 words may not be accepted. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, grammar, and clarity. Although every effort is made to publish all materials meeting our guidelines, we regret that not all submissions received can be published.

DRIVERS WANTED

NEED EXTRA DOUGH?

EVERYDAY IS PAYDAY,  
TAKE CASH HOME DAILY!

- FULL TIME
- FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES

- PART TIME
- CASH DAILY

APPLY ONLINE AT  
[JOBS.DOMINOS.COM](http://JOBS.DOMINOS.COM) OR  
TEXT "PIZZA" TO  
(434)404-4400 CHARLOTTESVILLE  
(540)340-9861 SHENANDOAH VALLEY

COPA

continued from page 4

on an eternal question: what does a child need to do in order to receive parental approval? The student body has argued persuasively that they are willing to do anything to receive this Law School's approval, including wear Sperrys (or Allbirds), Patagonias, talking loudly about "streamlining" and "right-sizing," group projects, making a Powerpoint presentation, and playing an obscene amount of golf.<sup>11</sup> It is only right that the Law School should respond in kind and make students feel loved in what science tells us is the most effective way possible: give us more and nicer stuff.

Accordingly, this Court reverses the Circuit Court's decision and orders the Law School to provide more free stuff, more fancy banquets, more horse racing,<sup>12</sup> and no less than one unnecessarily large hotel directly across the street from the Inn at Darden.

<sup>11</sup> Former Chief Justice Tonseth is, indeed, missed.

<sup>12</sup> Horses are very fancy. Plus, this is Virginia.

---

[cpg9jy@virginia.edu](mailto:cpg9jy@virginia.edu)

Mental Health

continued from page 3

an abrupt end to Feb Club and Spring Break, it can feel like coming back from a concert right now: that was so amazing but now it's time to deal with the unfortunate reality of life. The come down, frankly, can suck. What I've talked about here is just a taste of the issues that so many of us are dealing with. I am unable to cover them all with detail because this article is limited by my own experiences. But whether it was my family issues, academic stress, or interpersonal issues, I know what would have happened if I hadn't reached out. So, I am glad I did. I hope you do too. And at the very least, I know how recognizable and loud I am. Find me. I'm here to listen to everything, big or small. Being there for people and providing help where I can, is the most rewarding thing to me. But seriously, therapy. Can't recommend it enough.

---

[omk6cg@virginia.edu](mailto:omk6cg@virginia.edu)

Monica Sandu '24  
Co-Executive Editor



Spring brings with it more than just the dread of finals.

Around the world, warmer weather heralds rebirth and, with it, a time of celebration.

At the crossroads of the Balkans and Central Europe, a Latin enclave in Eastern Europe, Romania is a country rich in history. My family came to the United States from Romania in the 1990s. They brought with them traditions that span time, from its origins as a pre-Christian Dacian land, to its time as a province of the Roman Empire, through the Byzantine kingdoms and its time as a communist republic, and up to the modern day.

**Cultural Celebrations**

*Dragobete* (February 27)

Instead of Valentine's Day, Romanians celebrate the day of love on February 27 during *Dragobete* (DRA-go-beh-teh). *Dragobete* is a figure in Romanian mythology that dates to the Dacians. *Dragobete*, the son of *Baba Dochia*, an old shepherd woman, marries a woman against his mother's will. *Baba Dochia* then forces his wife to wash a piece of black wool and to not return to her husband until it turns white. Miraculously, the wool changes color, and *Dragobete* is re-

united with his wife.<sup>1</sup>

Besides the traditional flowers brought to one's love, it is said that on the eve of *Dragobete*, if you put a piece of fresh basil under your pillow, you will dream of your true love.

*Mărțișor* (March 1)

*Mărțișor* (muhr-TSEE-shore) is the largest and most widely-celebrated of Romania's spring festivals. The tradition dates to pre-Roman times and coincides with the Roman New Year, which celebrates Mars, the god of war. Women wear special pins on their clothes made of intertwined red and white thread, often held in place by a charm, usually a small figurine. These pins are also offered to family members as a gift to bring about good fortune in the new year. Traditionally, they are worn until the first tree blooms and are wrapped around tree branches and above doors.<sup>2</sup> Nowadays, they are worn for the first week of March.

*Babele* (March 1 – March 9)

*Babele* (i.e., "the old ladies") also relates to *Baba Dochia*. In the story, after she exiled her daughter-in-

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baba\\_Dochia#The\\_legend\\_of\\_Dragobete\\_and\\_the\\_Babele\\_myth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baba_Dochia#The_legend_of_Dragobete_and_the_Babele_myth)

<sup>2</sup> <https://romaniatourism.com/martisor.html>

law, she went to the mountains with her herd of goats wearing nine coats. As she climbed, she shed her coats, one at a time, until she froze to death as punishment for her cruelty. Other stories say she turned to stone, and a rock formation named after her is found today in the Carpathian Mountains.<sup>3</sup>

In February, women choose a day, one through nine. If the weather on that day is sunny, the year will bring good fortune. If it's rainy, it will bring sorrow.<sup>4</sup>

*Sânziene* (June 24)

The festival of *Sânziene* (sun-zee-EH-neh) gets its name from the fairies, or *zâne* (ZUH-neh), of Romanian mythology. Originating in the Roman Festival of Diana, it is a celebration of the midsummer solstice primarily held in small communities in the western Carpathians. Unmarried women dress in white, wear flower crowns, and dance around a bonfire. Legend has it that men who wander around that night, particularly in the forest, may fall victim to the fairies' more malevolent

<sup>3</sup> <https://abctravelromania.com/romanian-spring-traditions-martisor-dochia/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.romania-insider.com/three-spring-traditions-in-romania-martisor-babele-40-de-mucenici>

Springtime page 5

HOT BENCH



Lauralei Singsank '24

Interviewed by Jackson Makanikeoe Grubbe '23

**Hey Lauralei, thanks for taking the time to talk to us! I wanted to interview you for this Hot Bench because you recently became Virginia Law's first Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ("DEI").**

**Where are you from, and where did you go to undergrad?**

I grew up on Maui, Hawaii, and studied music and political science at the University of Oregon. I worked in Portland for a year before moving to Charlottesville.

**I went to college in Hawaii, but what was it like growing up in Hawaii?**

It was great, and my upbringing is part of why I ran for VP of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Hawaii is the most diverse state in the country, and moving to Eugene, Oregon gave me more appreciation for Hawaii's diversity. My background has influenced my perspective on what's important in building a

diverse student body or workplace.

**Tell me more about Hawaii's diversity.**

There's a certain comfort being in a place where basically everyone comes from different cultures or has different family dynamics. The comfort of knowing that you have an incredibly diverse group of people allows everyone to get to know others and their cultures better. There are so many ways to interface with the world. If you're in an environment where (a) diversity isn't a focus or (b) there's a power dynamic that discourages people from talking about diversity, then it prevents everyone from growing and learning from everyone else's past, culture, or family history. Ignoring diversity keeps us siloed away in whatever mentality we grew up in. It gets harder to break out of it the older you get. So, growing up around people who were nothing like myself was so beneficial.

**We've both lived in Hawaii, and every day you can hear as many as ten languages and interact with people from dozens of cultures. How do you promote diversity at a place like Virginia Law that is less linguistically and racially diverse?**

One challenge with how we talk about diversity is that it often gets boiled down to racial diversity only. Racial diversity is crucial, and we should foster that by facilitating more events like cultural celebrations. However, more needs to be done for the students that are already here. We should look at other

forms of diversity within the law school, such as economic diversity. Like many others, I'm a first-generation law student.

If you don't come from money, you can feel out of place here pretty quickly. This is the first time I have been exposed to so many people whose families are all doctors, lawyers, etc. One thing that doesn't get as much attention as it should is the prohibitive cost of popular events such as Foxfield and Barrister's. A great way to start creating a support system for all students would be to bridge these economic barriers more efficiently. Basically, our diversity efforts should account for who our student body actually is and amplify all kinds of diverse voices.

**In my research, I couldn't find any other law schools with student Vice Presidents of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. What does it mean to you to be the first VP of DEI at UVA Law (and possibly the first one at a T14 law school)?**

It says something about the student body and administration here to institutionalize a position that helps diverse student voices be heard. I would love to see this position become permanent, because longevity is so important. Reliance on one person is dangerous for any organization, because if they leave, then you have to start over from the ground up. So, I'd like to create institutional knowledge and streamline communications between diverse student voices and the administration.

I'll be working with Dean Jefferson, UVA Law's chief di-

versity officer. I'm excited to see what vision he has for the school, since his position will last beyond my time at UVA. I hope to bring together affinity groups to determine what can be done for the next decade, not just the next year.

I also looked for student VPs of DEI at other law schools, and I was shocked that I couldn't find anything. I'm hoping that we can spearhead some efforts that spread to other schools.

**What brought you to law school? Do you plan to practice in Hawaii?**

I always knew that I wanted to go to law school. Both of my parents are public servants. My mom was a police officer, and my dad was a social worker.

I'd love to end up back in Hawaii, ideally in the government. I plan to get whatever experience I can on the Mainland before returning to Hawaii. Partially, I want to do my best to prevent Hawaii's "brain drain" [the phenomenon of young, educated people leaving Hawaii because of its limited economic opportunities], especially on Maui. There are so few Maui-Native attorneys on Maui, and having that kind of local representation in your community is important.

**What's a piece of advice that you would tell your past self before law school?**

Keep an open mind, but be honest about your own strengths and weaknesses. We've been told our whole lives to keep as many career options open as possible, but there are diminishing returns to keeping doors open. The further I have gotten into law school, the more I have realized that gen-

eralizing too much can cause you to lose track of what you're passionate about. It's good to get comfortable shutting doors to focus on the ones you care about.

**Lightning round questions!**

**Favorite place in Charlottesville?**

Riverside Lunch. It has the best fried pickles and \$3.50 cheeseburgers you'll ever have in your life.

**Anti-stress hobby?**

Pickleball. I play an inordinately large amount of pickleball. I play every Sunday morning. Charlottesville is actually home to the 16th best women's player in the world, so there's a solid scene here.

**A place you want to visit?**

Japan. I visited in middle school, and I would love to go back. My family's from the Fukushima area, and they had a farm that was destroyed during the 2011 Fukushima nuclear meltdown. It would be interesting to see how the region is now.

**What's a movie that left an impression on you?**

One scene from *The Devil Wears Prada* left an impression. Andy (Anne Hathaway) decides to work in fashion out of desperation for a job, and Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep) gives this monologue about how the fashion industry will "get you" even if you think you're better than it. Miranda says that every item of clothing was at some point influenced by fashion industry experts. Just because you're not conscious of the effect they had on your

Hot Bench page 5

## Norwuz

continued from page 2  
has thrived as a celebration amid the many political, cultural, and religious changes that have shaped the regions that Farsi-speaking peoples continue to inhabit, while its observance has also spread to neighboring groups who have added to it in unique ways that reflect a much broader set of influences. Thus, modern Nowruz, by adapting with time and to the mores of different peoples, has transcended difference while attaining a largely secular status for those who observe it. Nevertheless, deep histories and traditions are evident in how it is celebrated, while its story continues to be written anew year after year.

One Nowruz practice that I have always particularly enjoyed is the preparation of a “Haft-seen” table (ن ی س ت ف ه). “Haft” (ت ف ه) is the number seven in Farsi, while “seen” (ن ی س) is the fifteenth letter of the alphabet (س). The table thus consists of an arrangement of seven items whose names in Farsi begin with “seen” and which each have a symbolic meaning. They can vary, with different tables substituting different items starting with “seen,” but often consist of some combination of “seeb”

the-story-of-the-iranian-new-year-nowruz-and-why-its-themes-of-renewal-and-healing-matter-156701.

## Springtime

continued from page 5  
side.

## Religious Celebrations

Nearly 82% of Romanians are Orthodox Christian.<sup>5</sup> Religious traditions play a major role in its cultural landscape. Spring in Romania revolves around Easter, or *Paște* (pronounced PAHSH-teh) as it’s called in Romanian.

## Mucenici (March 9)

*Mucenici* (moo-che-NEECH) is a Christian feast commemorating the 40 Martyrs of Sebaste, who were Roman soldiers martyred by drowning in the early 300s.<sup>6</sup> Special dishes are prepared in their honor. In the south, sweet dough in the form of a garland is boiled with sugar, walnuts, and lemon peel and served in syrup topped with cinnamon. In the east, fluffy cakes in the form of a figure eight are baked and covered in honey and crushed walnuts.

## Great Lent and Pascha (Dates Vary)

For the faithful, the arrival of Easter involves a long period of spiritual preparation. The Sunday two weeks prior to the start of Lent is Meatfare Sunday, the last day before Easter when meat may be consumed. One week later is Cheesefare Sunday, the last day for all dairy

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.indexmundi.com/romania/demographics\\_profile.html](https://www.indexmundi.com/romania/demographics_profile.html)

<sup>6</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mucenici>

(ب ی س), or apples, representing beauty; “*seer*” (ر ی س), or garlic, representing good health; “*serkeh*” (ک ر س), or vinegar, representing patience; “*sonbol*” (ل ب ن س), or hyacinth, representing spring; “*samanu*” (ن م س), or sweet pudding, representing fertility; “*sabzeh*” (ز ب س), or green sprouts of various kinds, representing rebirth; and “*sekeh*” (ک س), or coins, representing prosperity.<sup>6</sup> It will also often include other items, such as a “book of wisdom” that can be a book of poetry for the secular, or a Qur’an for the religious, and various treats or painted eggs. A family will often display one in their house and even gather around it for the moment where the new year begins at the astronomical equinox. In Afghanistan, this “*Haft-seen*” table is accompanied by the eating of the “*Haft-mewa*” (م و ی م ت ف ه), meaning seven fruits, which is a dish consisting of seven different dried fruits which have been kept throughout the winter that are thrown together to make a kind of fruit stew. This symbolizes the finishing of the previous year’s winter larder and

6 April Fulton & Davar Ardalan; *Nowruz: Persian New Year’s Table Celebrates Spring Deliciously*, NPR (Mar. 20, 2016), <https://www.npr.org/sections/the-salt/2016/03/20/471174857/noruz-persian-new-years-table-celebrates-spring-deliciously>.

products. Lent lasts for forty days, in which the faithful abstain from all animal products, along with wine and oil. During Lent, the Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated every year on March 25. Great Lent ends on Palm Sunday, when palm leaves are folded into the shape of a cross.

After Palm Sunday, Holy Week has a series of daily services building up to Easter, the “Feast of Feasts.” Lamb is prepared in a variety of ways, and a special cake called “*cozonac*” is baked, some with cocoa and walnuts, others with Turkish delight.

Traditions carry with them joys of the past, but nothing is better than sharing that experience with others.

---  
[ms7mn@virginia.edu](mailto:ms7mn@virginia.edu)



preparation for the new growth that will come with spring.

The revered Persian poet Saadi wrote: “Awaken, the morning Nowruz breeze is showering the garden with flowers.”<sup>7</sup> So, feel free to join a friend or fellow law student in this ancient celebration, and enjoy the happiness and new energy that comes with the passing of winter into spring (as well as the chance for a second new year if your resolutions have already hit the wayside).

7 Faramarzi, *supra* note 5.

---  
[mwp8kk@virginia.edu](mailto:mwp8kk@virginia.edu)



## iTrek

continued from page 2

ning. I had always wanted to go to Israel, but doing so with my law school friends made the experience even better. I’m still processing and questioning what I saw and experienced on the trip, but I look forward to continuing that journey.”

In closing, I truly have to thank and give all of the credit to the three UVA Law students who led our small cohort. The combination of Kara Kwert, Jeffrey Stiles, and Leon Ebani did an amazing job in helping to build our itinerary, herd all thirty-seven of us together logistically and provide for an awe-inspiring experience. If you have the chance to go on iTrek in future years, I highly recommend taking the chance. It’s an experience you won’t forget.

---  
[pjt5hm@virginia.edu](mailto:pjt5hm@virginia.edu)

## Hot Bench

continued from page 5

life doesn’t mean that it’s not happening. Basically, pretending that it’s cool to be ignorant about fashion benefits nobody and only shows your ignorance to these cultural influences. I feel relatively uneducated about fashion, but it made me think more about why I buy the clothes I do.

## Least favorite sound?

The squeaking that comes from wet boots walking on a tile floor.

**Here’s a hypothetical: Let’s suppose that you woke up tomorrow on an island with the Virginia Law student body, and everyone else in the world mysteriously disappeared. What role do you think you would play in rebuilding society?**

If it’s a tropical island, I would be so good at growing agriculture. I grew up on a flower farm, my dad grew up on a corn farm in Minnesota, and my grandpa is an expert gardener. At the very least, having more flowers would make our island society more beautiful.

I could also be a solid lumberjack. Over quarantine, I learned about Hawaiian *kiawe* wood, which is valuable because it’s dense and burns for a long time. I chopped down trees, split the wood, and sold it.

---  
[lks3ea@virginia.edu](mailto:lks3ea@virginia.edu)

## Counsel's Counsel

*Counsel's Counsel is the world's preeminent advice column for law students. Written by recent UVA Law graduate, Jane Doe, J.D.*

## Question:

Hi, the 1L job search has been simultaneously exciting and nerve-racking. I feel that I am obsessing over tiny details too much. I put together my documents, but I keep going back and forth and editing them. I want to make a good first impression, but I also want to stand out.

Are *dream journaling* and *lucid dreaming* acceptable things to put in the “Interests” section of my resume? They are genuinely two of my main hobbies, but I don’t want it to come across as weird or juvenile. Thanks for your help!

Sincerely,  
An Overthinking Dreamer

## Answer:

I appreciate you writing in! The 1L job search involves many uncertainties, so it’s great that you’re asking for help. First of all, don’t beat yourself up about overthinking—it is typical and encouraged for attorneys.

Both dream journaling and lucid dreaming are relatively unique hobbies, but a distinction must be made between them. Dream journaling might come across as novel and unpretentious.

However, dream journaling could also be perceived as rather pedestrian, an activity of mere description, mindlessly recounting facts in a parrot-like fashion.

Conversely, lucid dreaming is an art that can take weeks to learn and months to master. It is a puzzle that requires dedication to figure out. Moreover, the risk of sleep paralysis while trying to lucid dream demonstrates your ability to execute in high-pressure situations. Overall, lucid dreaming showcases agency and control over your mind, which is an invaluable asset for any legal employer. So, I would remove *dream journaling* from your resume, but I would keep *lucid dreaming*.

That being said, be cognizant of how much you can speak about lucid dreaming. Again, while lucid dreaming is a pretty novel interest, you will want to tie in relevant legal skills to your discussion. Consider discussing (a) the type of research you did to teach yourself, (b) the difficulties you overcame while learning to lucid dream, (c) the degree of control you have in dreams, and (d) any practical motivations behind learning lucid dreaming. For (d), perhaps you learned to lucid dream because you wanted more time in the day

to study.

All in all, legal employers want hardworking winners who are skilled at learning complicated things. Lucid dreaming signals that ability. Dream journaling may come across as lackluster or uninspired. Best of luck, and I hope you get your dream 1L job!

*For a serious response to your serious inquiries, please access the anonymous submission form using the QR code below.*

