



VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

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

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VJIL Fall Semester Kickoff

Monica Sandu '24
Co-Executive Editor

This past Thursday marked the fall kickoff event for the *Virginia Journal of International Law* at Random Row. Truly, it was a momentous occasion, unparalleled by any other event at the Law School.¹ After a summer entirely online, it was refreshing to finally sit face-to-face with my fellow journal members and have a drink as we shared our recent tales of joy and woe. Most of all, I never pass up an opportunity for free pizza.²

This being my first time going to Random Row, I didn't know what to expect—or even how to get there. The event started at 6 p.m., so, naturally, I left my home at 6:20.³ “How can there be this many people out partying on Thursday evening?” I thought to myself as I passed the Corner on my way to go out partying on Thursday evening. I had put in the address in my GPS, but I was still caught off guard as I drove past the Dairy Market and was thrown into the wilds of Charlottesville. In my mind, I had confused Random Row with Kardinal Hall (an understandable mistake, really) and needed a few seconds to reorient myself.

The evening was windy, as I'm sure those of you who went to Carter Mountain can attest to, and I found myself surprised by the slight coolness in the air. No matter how many times I go through it, I'm somehow always caught off guard by the changing of the seasons. The pumpkin spice coffee creamer in my fridge notwithstanding, I'm never ready for fall. This time of year is busy.⁴ I refuse to listen to people who try to tell me that the Fall Equinox has happened (on the same day as the kickoff, apparently) and that the days are only getting shorter from here. I don't

1 Have no fear, dear 1Ls. In the spring, you, too, will get to experience the joy that is journal tryouts.

2 I can neither confirm nor deny that this is also the reason why I joined the *Law Weekly*.

3 Never let it be said that I don't have impeccable time management skills.

4 I mean, law school is never *not* busy, but you get my point.

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Dean Goluboff Addresses Hate Crime and Admin Response at SBA Meeting



Nikolai Morse '24
Managing Editor, *cp99jy*

Amidst criticism of the Law School Administration's silence following an unidentified individual hanging a noose around the neck of the Homer statue,¹ which has been designated a hate crime² by the University Police,³ Dean Risa Goluboff spoke to students at the Student Bar Association's first meeting of the year. The focus of the conversation was both on the hate crime itself and the Law School Administration's response to it. SBA President Juhi Desai '23 opened the meeting, noting the circumstances of the recent hate crime and encouraging questions and dialogue with the members of the Law School Administration present, including Dean Goluboff, Vice Dean Michael Gilbert, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Sarah Davies '91, and Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Belonging Mark Jefferson. Desai ended by posing Goluboff a question she noted was on many people's minds: Why it had taken until

1 The Homer statue is located at the southern end of the Lawn on UVA's Main Grounds. Its location makes it among the most prominent and central statues on Main Grounds.

2 A noose is a recognizable symbol of violence closely associated with the lynching of Black individuals. Leaving a noose on public property is a Class 6 Felony under Virginia state law.

3 Per the latest update provided by the University Police Department, the UPD is working with the local Federal Bureau of Investigation to enhance the video of the incident and develop more information to identify and apprehend the subject. The UPD has released photos of the suspect and his vehicle and offered a \$2,000 reward for any individual who has information helpful in solving the crime.

now for the Administration to issue a public statement regarding the incident?

Dean Goluboff, who, earlier in the day, had sent the Law School community an email inviting them to attend the SBA meeting and speak with her regarding the hate crime, began by acknowledging the hate crime and the clear symbol of racial violence conjured by the noose. She noted the noose's connection to lynching, and that nooses are most closely associated with terrorizing Black Americans and other minorities. Dean Goluboff condemned the act, stating “This hate crime is inimical to our values as a law school and a community. I condemn it in no uncertain terms.” She then noted that “because of its history, [the noose] does not impact everyone equally and impacts our Black students particularly.” Its disparate impact notwithstanding, Dean Goluboff said she viewed acts which threatened anyone in our community as a threat to all of us. Rejecting the message of intimidation and exclusion inherent in the hate crime, Dean Goluboff emphasized that “Every person in this room and school has earned their place here and belongs here. I value you, we all value you, and I cannot say how glad I am that all of you are here.”

Responding to the question posed by Desai, Dean Goluboff first pointed to the statement issued by UVA President Jim Ryan '92 via email, on September 8th, the day following the discovery of the noose on the Homer statue. Noting that in addition to being her boss, Dean Goluboff said that Jim Ryan is a friend and colleague who shares her values, and she considered him to be speaking for her and the entire university community. Speaking about public statements more generally, Dean Goluboff listed several reasons support-

ing her default policy of not issuing public statements. First, she noted that, given the prevalence and frequency of tragedies and injustices in our world, if she started making statements, she feared that she would not be able to stop. Further, Dean Goluboff argued that if she issued statements selectively, she worried that “picking and choosing causes to make a statement about may hurt the ultimate purpose of making statements, as I see it: to increase a sense of belonging.” Dean Goluboff said she did not feel this was the best way for her to have an impact or lead the Law School. Dean Goluboff ended by saying she believes there are additional, potentially more constructive ways to continue this conversation and implement action at the Law School and in the Charlottesville community. Specifically, she pointed to her email inviting students to join more intimate follow-up conversations, a dinner with the Black Law Student Association 1Ls earlier in the semester, discussions with UVA BLSA Leadership,⁴ and conversations in the last two weeks with 1Ls at section breakfasts.

Following Dean Goluboff's statement, she took questions from representatives of the UVA Black Law Student Association and other students. Responding to the Dean's rationale for not issuing statements, one student noted that President Ryan's statement “does not speak to law students because we do not know President Ryan—you are our leader and statements coming from you mean more to us than statements by Presi-

4 Dean Goluboff specifically referenced conversations with UVA Black Law Students Association President Keegan Hudson '24 and Social Action Chair Tommy Cerja '24.

Hate Crime page 3

around north grounds



Thumbs up to the Pakistan Floods Relief bake sale. Buy some sweet treats for a good cause.



Thumbs down to the Assassins game running on Grounds. ANG was eliminated on the first day and now has to watch everyone else get jabbed on the sidelines.



Thumbs up to Copley. And to Copley. ANG has suffered at the hands of misspellings long enough, it's time for someone else to suffer.



Thumbs down to Copley. And to Copley. ANG lives at Copley, and ANG is tired of the rampant misspellings. This is ANG's home, please, have some respect.



Thumbs up to the 1.4 billion pounds of cheese in US Government cheese caves. ANG is glad to know we have something to combat the 94,000 barrels in Canada's Global Strategic Maple Syrup Reserve.



Thumbs down to the broken coffee machines in the Library. Like the guardians of ANG's sanity, they are falling one by one, never to return.



Thumbs up to the supply chain issues plaguing the coffee machines. ANG appreciates the school's dedication to Peet's coffee, and would never defile these French machines with a different brand that's still perfectly fine to a less refined palate.



Thumbs down to the snakes around the law school. They should stay in Darden where they belong.



Thumbs down to the metal poles in front of the Taco Bell on Emmett Street. ANG believes people who make mistakes (missing the turn onto Arlington) deserve second chances (the ability to make rapid U-turns).

Panelists Discuss Conflict Between LGBTQ+ Rights, Religious Liberty

Ethan Brown '25
Staff Editor



The Karsh Center for Law and Democracy hosted a panel on the intersection of LGBTQ+ rights and religious liberty on Friday, September 23. Panelists discussed conflict between activists on both sides in statehouses and courtrooms across the country before debating the merits of legislative intervention in addressing the issue.

The four panelists—former Utah Supreme Court Chief Justice Christine Durham, Yale Law School Professor William Eskridge, Jr., ACLU Women's Rights Project Director Ria Tabacco Mar, and University of Illinois College of Law Professor Robin Wilson '95—were joined on stage by Professor Craig Konnoth, who moderated the conversation.

The panel occurred just days after the Supreme Court denied Yeshiva University's attempt to block a New York state ruling requiring the university to recognize an LGBTQ+ student rights group. Panelists also noted the relevance of pending Supreme Court case *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis* before beginning the conversation.¹

¹ In *Creative 303*, a Colora-

Professor Konnoth first asked the panelists for their perspective on the extent to which there is conflict, if at all, between LGBTQ+ rights and religious liberty in modern America. Justice Durham said that she did see a conflict between the two sides and pointed to a rise in militant religious assertiveness as a contributing factor in rising tensions. She also explained that dialogue surrounding religious liberty is increasingly focused on the free exercise of religion, almost to the point that activists neglect the Establishment Clause also included in the First Amendment.

"I am constantly reminding people that there are two clauses in the Constitution in the First Amendment regarding religion, and the first clause is that there shall be no establishment of religion . . . I find that a lot of the people I talk to want to go straight to free exercise of religion," Justice Durham said.

Following up on Justice Durham's comments on re-

do wedding website designer is seeking to block enforcement of the state's anti-discrimination law that would require her to serve LGBTQ+ couples, despite her religious opposition to same-sex marriage. The case is expected to be heard in October 2022.

ligious expression, Professor Eskridge emphasized that both parties—LGBTQ+ people and religious people—feel that their dignity and self-expression are at stake in interactions like that exemplified in the *303 Creative* case. Just as being denied service because of one's sexual orientation or gender identity is an affront to equality and liberty, Professor Eskridge noted, deeply religious individuals see their own freedom of expression in jeopardy amid changing cultural tides.

"Both sides see themselves as dispossessed," Professor Eskridge said.

Tabacco Mar was reluctant to equate the two sides' experiences and argued that conflict between LGBTQ+ rights and religious liberty is just "old wine in new bottles"—that is, a replication of similar battles between racial equality and religious liberty that unfolded in the courts last century. Tabacco Mar brought up the case of *Newman v. Piggie Park Enterprises, Inc.*, where a South Carolina restaurant owner was sued for forbidding African Americans to dine inside his establishments. The courts deemed that, despite the owner's deeply held religious belief that integration went against the will of God, the policy was incompatible with Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,

which protects access to public spaces, regardless of race.

Tabacco Mar said that the quandary of the website designer or cake baker who refuses to perform for a same-sex couple echoes the tension between race and religious belief shown in *Piggie Park*. She implored audience members to question their discomfort in extending the same protections for LGBTQ+ people in public spaces.

"If it feels uncomfortable in this context, I really urge everyone to ask themselves, 'Why is that so?' and to ask why the existence and equal dignity of LGBT people feels so troubling when we've come to accept equal dignity of so many others," said Tabacco Mar.

Wilson agreed with Tabacco Mar that all LGBTQ+ people deserve to wear the "badge of citizenship" that comes with participating in public spaces. But she also cautioned that making these interactions a zero-sum game—and forcing a conflict by making people pick sides between a religious small-business owner and a same-sex couple—is a risky bet for LGBTQ+ rights activists.

"If Republicans see it as a conflict between LGBT persons and a shop owner, they'll pick the shop owner," said Professor Wilson.

Instead of forcing religious individuals to serve same-sex couples, whether for wedding cakes or marriage licenses, Professor Wilson said that state legislatures should work to carve out exceptions, so that people are not placed in a position where conflicts may materialize. As an example, she pointed to Utah's enactment of a statute permitting clerks with religious beliefs against same-sex marriage to opt out of performing those ceremonies, provided that they assist in locating another party to solemnize the legal marriage.²

In response, Tabacco Mar raised the concern that once state legislatures get in the business of creating these "opt-out" policies, people will continue seeking increasingly broader exemptions.

Panelists then debated Professor Wilson's suggestion that state legislatures should work towards forging a compromise between LGBTQ+ rights activists and religious liberty advocates. Professor Eskridge generally agreed with Professor Wilson on the importance of legislative compromise, and he emphasized the role of political pushback in protecting against excessive limitations

[2 https://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/sb0297.html](https://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/sb0297.html)

Panel page 6

Prospective Players Partake in Pickleball Popularity

Jack Brown '23, Sports Editor
Sarah Walsh '23, Staff Editor

Pickleball Fever has officially overtaken Charlottesville. The sport entered its inaugural season at the Law School at the beginning of this semester and, as of the time of this article's writing, has already amassed ninety-eight members in its dedicated GroupMe. To learn more about this push in pickleball popularity, we spoke with Lauralei Singsank '24 over the phone as she drove down to Myrtle Beach for—fittingly enough—a pickleball tournament.

When we asked Singsank what she believes is driving the insane growth of pickleball—both at UVA and nationally—her answers all centered around one central theme: the sport's accessibility. Pickleball is similar to tennis, a sport that many of us are already familiar with, but its learning curve is significantly less steep. It's also a relatively cheap sport to pick up (players only need paddles, a ball,¹ and somewhere with a net), and pickup games are incredibly easy to arrange, thanks to the minimal equipment needed and the low number of players required to get a game started.

Inspired by our interview

¹ Or, if you're like us, friends with paddles and a ball.



The authors' helpful and incredibly patient pickleball instructors/playing partners, Jackson Grubbe '23, Jon Peterson '23, Landon Garfinkel '24, and Parker Kelly '23. Photo Credit: Laura Lowry '23

with the Law School's most dedicated pickleball advocate, we decided to finally show up to one of the weekly sessions that our friends would not shut up about. Getting to the court bright and early (if 10 a.m. counts as "early"), the group soon sorted itself, with the more advanced players starting their own game on one court while we were schooled on the rules of pickleball on another. All in all, it didn't take long for us to get the hang of the rules (partially thanks to our past experiences playing tennis) and the basic strategy of the game.

Once we were able to get into a real game, the appeal of the sport became obvious. As promised by Singsank, the

learning curve was very forgiving, and, by the end of the first hour, both of us felt like we could play the game. And it's a really fun game. Even the most routine play fills you with satisfaction, and the game is paced perfectly, with every frantic point followed by a moment of peace as you get yourself ready for the next rally.

On top of how much fun the game is to play, there is an additional dimension of enjoyment that comes from playing doubles, where you get to experience the epic highs and lows of Law School pickleball with one of your friends. Having a partner gives you someone who will cheer you on after each play and who is there for you

to give some encouragement when the point doesn't go your way. And really, nothing beats a paddle tap with your partner as you switch sides after a particularly hard-won point. As our generation grapples with an unprecedented loneliness epidemic, sometimes it's nice to know that someone is there for you, even if it's just for a few minutes early in the morning.

So, what should a prospective player do if they're looking to enter the Law School pickleball scene? Step number one is getting yourself added to the School's pickleball GroupMe, either by asking someone who is already in the GroupMe—chances are solid that you know someone who is—or by contacting Singsank herself. You can also simply show up to play on Sundays at 9 a.m.² While the Law School pickleball crew usually plays at the Snyder courts (the tennis courts near Main Grounds, right next to the sand courts and Memorial Gym) at that time, when those courts are occupied, the pickleballers will play at Darden-Towe instead, which is why it's good to get into the GroupMe—you'll

² This might seem like an early playing time, especially on a weekend, but Singsank mentioned to us how the time used to be 8 a.m. on Sundays, so 9 a.m. is a big step up.

probably want a heads up if the pickleball location has changed before you head out bright and early on Sunday morning.

Players don't need to worry about having any experience, and more often than not, there will be extra equipment (paddles, balls) available to use. Whatever you do, DO NOT get a wooden pickleball paddle. Singsank stressed how much it is not worth it for a beginner player to splurge on a non-plastic paddle, and we both believe her and want to pass that wisdom on to you all, the readers. If new players are worried about not knowing what they're doing once they show up to play, fear not: Singsank is more than happy to show beginners the ropes, either at the Sunday games or individually. Additionally, as in our own 10 a.m. pickup game, Sunday players are sorted by skill level, so new players won't have to worry about being required to face off against pro-level competitors.

While nothing can ever truly replace softball in the Law School's heart, we do hope that readers will give pickleball a shot (if they haven't already), and maybe we'll see you out on the courts.

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Hate Crime

continued from page 1

dent Ryan.” The student continued, “Additionally, while there are many worthy causes in the world, this event occurred in Charlottesville, on our Grounds. Charlottesville has a violent history against Black individuals, and incidents like this, particularly without acknowledgement, push minority students away. The minority community at the Law School cannot grow without active effort to quash racism in the Charlottesville community.”⁵ Another student acknowledged Dean Goluboff’s rationale, while pointing out its unintended consequences, saying “I understand your intent, but the impact feels as if you do not care. The silence from others in positions of power in this Law School speaks volumes.”⁶

Other students were at times openly critical and angry with what they saw as a lack of care shown by the administration following the incident. One student said “I’m very angry, for two reasons. One, your response . . . about why you are here. You and everyone is here because

5 This quote is taken from the SBA Meeting Minutes for the Tuesday, September 22, 2022 meeting. The minutes are available in the weekly SBA email sent by SBA Secretary Grace Stevens (ggs2tq@virginia.edu) and substantiated by notes taken by Nikolai Morse ’24 while in attendance.

6 This quote is taken from the SBA Meeting Minutes and substantiated by notes taken by Nikolai Morse while in attendance.

BLSA dragged everyone here. Black students did the labor that got everyone here and I don’t want you to erase that. Two, the bigger issue about this is the lack of care. Did any of the black students here get an email from anyone? No. In my class alone there are two black students who left UVA because they did not feel safe or welcome here. Thank you for your apologies, but what is your practice going forward about how you will take care of black students?”⁷

Asked if she would issue a statement the next time a similar hate crime occurred on UVA’s Grounds, Dean Goluboff said she “would definitely think about it.” Amidst laughter and groans, she acknowledged that this was likely unsatisfying but reiterated that she tried to be thoughtful about her communications and actions, and that she appreciated and sincerely intended to consider everyone’s feedback.

Some students expressed frustration with what they saw as the recurring nature of student dissatisfaction with administration responses to incidents affecting students of color and other minority groups. A 3L SBA senator noted that this kind of conversation and apology had been heard multiples times before in their time at the Law School, but perhaps more concerning than the administration making or not making statements is the continued tolerance

7 This quote is taken from the SBA Meeting Minutes and substantiated by notes taken by Nikolai Morse while in attendance.

of an inscription honoring a white supremacist who fought for the Confederacy on the floor outside of the Law Library, despite the recent renovations at the Law School over the summer.⁸ Dean Goluboff responded that while she had not previously been aware of this, she has since reached out to the people in charge of building construction and the seal is slated for removal. She also pointed out that UVA Law has a new portrait of Elaine Jones, our first black female student, and that is a statement as well.

Other students asked about the administration’s plans to invest in staff to support diverse students and particularly to ensure their safety. In response, Dean Goluboff stated that she was in conversations regarding hiring another person to work with Dean Jefferson. Regarding safety, the Dean said she was speaking with the Darden Dean and VP of Student Affairs on Main Grounds regarding the bus lines and safety of students returning to places off-Grounds where students live in Charlottesville. Stating that she understood the feeling of safety is a larger issue, Dean Goluboff encouraged students to bring ideas to her on how physical and emotional safety can be improved.

At the meeting’s close, BLSA

8 On the seal on the floor outside the main entrance to the library, there is an inscription in memoriam to Henry Malcom Withers, a Confederate soldier who studied at UVA Law from 1868-1870. The Law School Board of Visitors previously approved the removal of Withers’ name from Brown Hall.

President, Keegan Hudson ’23, called on everyone in attendance at the meeting to think of ways to make the law school community more inclusive, noting that many Black students do not feel welcome or comfortable at SBA events, or even in the halls of the Law School. Desai concurred with Hudson’s statement, noting that while she had heard from many people who were concerned, this concern was not reflected by the number of people in attendance at the meeting, who were primarily members of BLSA and SBA. Desai further acknowledged that she had received feedback that many SBA events, such as Bar Review, were not felt to be inclusive, and that SBA was working on more inclusive programming.

Additionally, Desai proposed two specific events. First, she proposed a Community Chat, consisting of an open forum similar to the discussion as well as the question and answer session at this meeting, after which SBA could issue a letter summarizing the discussion. Second, Desai proposed a Dean’s Discussion, in which the SBA could moderate a discussion between the Deans present at this meeting, which may be held in Caplin Auditorium, allowing a significant portion of the student body to hear directly from the administration.

Commenting on the SBA meeting and steps moving forward, Dean Goluboff stated “I appreciate the SBA for hosting this important discussion, and I appreciate all the students who attended. I learned a lot from the thoughtful questions and com-

ments. I hope students will sign up for the follow-up meetings I announced in my email, and I look forward to continuing the conversation.”

BLSA issued the following statement:

“The Black Law Students Association would like to thank Dean Goluboff for opening up the SBA meeting to discuss the administration’s response to the noose incident. Unfortunately, we left the meeting largely unsatisfied. We hoped to have a more concrete idea of how the administration will respond differently to future acts of racism on our campus, especially ones as repugnant as a noose at an educational institution an hour away from the former capital of the Confederacy. We challenge the administration to present a tangible plan on how the protocol and responsiveness of the Law School will change going forward. Lastly, we are also disappointed by the lack of action and mobilization from the larger student body, particularly from organizations that have overlapping membership with BLSA. We are of the belief that this is not just a Black issue but rather a schoolwide issue. To that end, we would like to strongly encourage the student body to attend the community conversations Dean Goluboff will be holding on Tuesday, Sept. 27 10:00-11:00am, Tuesday, Sept. 27 2:00-3:00pm, and Thursday, Sept. 29 9:30-10:30am. In the meantime, we look forward to helping our community heal and to working together with the Law School administration on addressing this matter.”

Tweedle Dee Tweedle Dum: Rings of Power vs. House of the Dragon

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

Jonathan Peterson ’23
Co-Executive Editor



Rings of Power

As a fan of both series, I feel that it’s important that I begin by saying that this is not an argument that *Rings of Power* is downright better as a series. I rarely take nuanced stances (both in life and in art), but a comparison of the two shows calls for such a stance.

Rings of Power is neither *Game of Thrones* nor *House of the Dragon*, and people seem to forget that quite often. Tolkien did not write with the intention of creating an intense political drama. Tolkien’s writings are much closer to true fantasy—he strives to depict the ebb and flow of the forces of good and evil. I believe this is a large reason why people scoff at *Rings of Power*; they want nuance, intrigue, and surprise, but *Rings of Power* is likely not going to deliver that, at least not in the way they have come to expect. *Game of Thrones* and *House of the Dragon* excel at creating characters who exist in shades of gray; this is how fan engagement is driven in

the show. There is, for many characters, a reason to both love and hate them at any given time. Put simply, the series has done an incredible job of depicting humanity. This simply isn’t the case for many of Tolkien’s characters.¹ Characters are good or bad, with few falling in between. And those that do are typically humans who have been corrupted by some external force of evil—not their own moral failings.

All this to say, the two shows are different. To compare them in the same way, to ask for the same style of storytelling from either, would be to expect the showrunners of either show to completely ignore the spirit of either world. And *Rings of Power* certainly has been capturing the feel of Tolkien’s world, whether viewers with tastes modernized after the two decades since *The Lord of the Rings* enjoy it or not.

While *House of the Dragon* will inevitably capture the attention of more viewers due to its ruthless depiction of humanity,² *Rings*

1 Many of whom are simply not even human.

2 During a time when many people’s faith in hu-

manity will do something different. *Rings of Power* will depict a story which, while seemingly hopeless at times, ultimately will end in the forces of good prevailing. This somewhat dated motif is, perhaps, exactly what we need a little bit more of in the world these days. If *Rings of Power* can continue to pull it off (and hopefully improve on what has thus far been about a seven-out-of-ten), it may be just what viewers need.

Jack Brown ’23
Sports Editor



House of the Dragon

I am going to be real, I have not watched a single episode of *Rings of Power*, and I don’t have any intention of doing so. I’m a busy guy—I have one more year of freedom before Big Law comes to collect, and I intend to make the most of what time I have left. So I only have time for one big-budget fantasy series to watch, and of the two going on right now, *House of the Dragon* is the clear number one show for the law student with not a lot of time on their hands. *House of the Dragon* is the clear number one show for the law student with not a lot of time on their hands.

of time on their hands.

First, we know that *Game of Thrones* works for television. Despite its less-than-ideal ending, George R.R. Martin’s world made for four to six-and-a-half amazing seasons of television.³ I have no idea how Tolkien’s world will look on my laptop on a weekly basis, and I don’t intend to take the risk that my time might be wasted trying to figure it out.

Secondly, I am a jaded law student. I don’t believe in things like “impartiality” or “good and evil” or “original meaning” anymore. How can I enjoy Tolkien’s work, with its absolute evils that can be vanquished by a scrappy, idealistic group of heroes? No, as a modern media consumer, I want my nihilism reinforced by a show that tells me, “Hey, we’re all pretty bad, so it’s okay to take that Big Law paycheck, my guy.”

3 How many seasons of *Game of Thrones* were good will vary wildly, depending on when you started watching the show, if you had read the books, and how much of a contrarian you want to be, because Season Five was still great, and I will stab anyone who tries to tell me otherwise.

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

1L Section D

v.

Virginia Law Weekly
75 U.Va 5 (2022)

KULKARNI, J., delivers the opinion of the court, in which LAKE, C.J., BNINSKI, J., MORSE, J., REYNA, J., BROWN, J., PETERSON, J. and PAZHAWAK, J. join.

WALSH, J. concurs.

Kulkarni, J. delivered the majority opinion.

Background

In the September 21 edition of the *Law Weekly*, one of the esteemed editors of that beloved newspaper published an article critiquing the names that the 1L sections of the Class of 2025 chose for their softball teams.¹ It was a comedic article made in good fun. Softball, after all, is the main pastime of the Law School and is intended to be a relief from the pressures of the classroom. But rather than appreciate the finely crafted jokes as they were presented, a section of 1Ls decided to take the article personally. They were the first 1Ls in my time on this esteemed Court to send in an actual, properly-formatted complaint. 1L Section D decided to spend time that they could have used at softball practice or on readings to formulate a complaint about a humorous article in the *Law Weekly*. While they attempted to sue only the writer of that piece, their complaint dealt with the institution of the paper itself. Rather than discuss *respondet superior* as a concept, we will just move forward assuming that they appropriately named the *Law Weekly* as their opposing party.

Analysis

That above statement leads to the first point against the plaintiffs here. When this Court

1 Sarah Walsh, Ranking 1L Section Softball Team Names, Va. L. Wkly., Sept. 21, 2022, at 3.

discusses real legal issues, it is because we choose to do so voluntarily. When we take on extra work, it is by choice. But this complaint has not led to voluntary work on our part. As recent precedent demonstrates, when a party creates more work for this Court, they should face consequences.² Members of this Court had to spend the early parts of this week dealing with motions and actually reading through the complaints, when they could have been 3LOLing instead. That is simply unconscionable. But worse than this, 1L Section

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Conclusion

Without question, this complaint from the plaintiffs fails. For procedural and substantive issues, they have failed to meet the requirements to gain sympathy and support from us. Moreover, next time, don't talk in ScoCo within earshot of members of the *Law Weekly* about the article in question (or assume that a man wrote the article). Insulting members of the Court is an invitation for a verbal smackdown.

Walsh, J., concurring.

1L Section D, make no mis-

"It is unbecoming of this Court to consider arguments which purport to impose standards upon the Court."⁶ Justice Peterson's words may have been dicta, but that doesn't make them any less true. This Court will not stand idly by while 1Ls—ones who haven't even attended a single *Law Weekly* meeting—attempt to impose standards of credibility or fairness upon the Court.

I could end my concurrence there, since ordinarily, I would not deign to respond to the allegations of 1Ls. However, they managed to get their 3L PA to represent them—and I don't like that they called me out personally—so onwards this concurrence shall go. Plaintiffs believe that because I co-captain a team called §A & Pals, I am inherently unqualified to critique the names of other softball teams. What Plaintiffs fail to consider is that that's just how the law is, baby. Everything is made up, and no one is really all that qualified to be doing what they're doing, anyways.

Another point that Plaintiffs fail to consider: §A & Pals has co-captains. Not only is this omission outrageously rude to Jack Brown '23—who deserves recognition as an original captain of the team and a fantastic co-captain—it also causes Plaintiffs to miss the fact that I'm not the person who named the team or who submitted that name when

6 *Readers of the Virginia Law Weekly v. Virginia Law Weekly*, 75 U.Va. 4 (2022) (Peterson, J., concurring).

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"We take insults to friends and members of this court as invitations for a verbal smackdown."

D turned to their PA, who aided them in the way counsel would in a real-world case. We did indeed grant a motion for sanctions against that 3L earlier this week and recommend that other authorities investigate this student for betraying his own classmates in favor of 1Ls.

Furthermore, these 1Ls demonstrate their lack of research skills by even making this claim. Simply using evidence of allegedly lackluster past names of the team that the author captained is not enough to impress us. The most basic precedent of our storied court is straightforward and unimpeachable: 1Ls always lose.³ It is that simple. We are bound by precedent here, and this is no exception. Despite previous 1Ls and 2Ls lamenting this rule, myself included,⁴ it stands. These 1Ls have no right to a fa-

2 *Readers of the Virginia Law Weekly v. Virginia Law Weekly*, 75 U.Va. 4 (2022).

3 *1L Gunners v. Everyone Else*, 324 U.Va. 22 (2019).

4 *1Ls v. God*, 73 U.Va. 16 (2021) (Kulkarni, J., dissenting).

want, but the *Law Weekly* writers write what they want. The Triumvirate approves what they want for publishing. If these 1Ls have an issue with that, they can join the paper. It is just that simple. The writer of the piece in question proposed the idea, got it approved, and wrote well. We are dealing with the case at bar because it was well-written. Additionally, none of the other sections have issued complaints. Only Section D. Not that this decision would be any different if they had. It just goes to show how wrong Section D is that none of their friends supported them. By bringing up the writer's own team names, these students think they are being clever, but the truth is that no one felt the need to write this rankings article over the last year. And now someone has. Much like in real life, they can't complain that this type of article didn't exist in the past. They only played softball while the current *Law Weekly* regime has existed, so they don't need additional notice.⁵

5 I don't care if this isn't how real law works. WE. DO. WHAT. WE. WANT.

take: You earned your eighth-place spot. Calling my writing hypocritical won't change that, nor will trying to pander to the supposed credibility of the *Law Weekly*. Plaintiffs are tragically mistaken if they believe that the esteemed justices of this Court—three of whom (not including me) are on the team that Plaintiffs described as "flavorlessly named"—would turn against one of their own just to side with a bunch of 1Ls. As if that were not insulting enough, Plaintiffs attempt to accomplish their mission by claiming that ruling against me is necessary for the sake of the paper's credibility and reputation. Do Plaintiffs not remember Justice Peterson's concurrence from *just last week*? If not, here's a reminder:

Faculty Quotes

B. Sachs: "We don't want a riot on our hands."

K. Kordana: "When I get on the phone with these stupid politicians I want them to say, 'What can I do master!'"

R. Harmon: "This little gang I was part of, one of the guys was a mortician."

A. Frost: "I mean, people got run over by horses all the time."

G. Geis: "Who is Borg? Borg is a new buyer trying to ASSIMILATE the Chicago property."

D. Brown: "This is a low-security federal pen which housed minor-celebrities, like Martha Stewart."

P. Grossi: "The news is brought to you by drugs."

Heard a good professor quote? Email us at editor@lawweekly.org



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continued from page 4

registering with NGSF each semester. Could we have renamed the team at some point during my tenure as co-captain? Sure. But by the time I became co-captain, we already had “jerseys” (t-shirts) with the name “SA & Pals” on them,⁷ and I wasn’t about to cough up more money (or force my team to do the same)⁸ just so that we could rename the team. That’s not hypocrisy—that’s being budget friendly.

Plaintiffs also seem to miss the fact that I was ranking 1L section softball team names. When I set forth my ranking methodology, I explicitly stated that it applied to “1L section softball team” names; nowhere did I say anything about the names of any other kind of team. Plaintiffs can’t even criticize my 1L section’s softball team name, since, by their own admission, they don’t know what that team’s name was. At the end of the day, I might be throwing rocks from a public perch, but at least I know what I’m throwing at.

Now that I’m done defending my writing’s honor, I can move on to the true legal basis for my concurrence: Not only do “1Ls

lose,”⁹ so do gunners.¹⁰ And getting your PA to file a formal complaint *and* a motion for disqualification on your behalf—rather than just complaining about the rankings in your section group chat (or loudly complaining in ScoCo while I sit less than six feet away)¹¹—because you didn’t like how I ranked your team’s name? That has *astronomically* high levels of gunner energy. You sat down with your Civ Pro (arguably the most gunnery of the 1L subjects) textbook, and you thought to yourself, “Reading thirty pages of this three times a week isn’t enough; I want *more*”? That’s a level of gunning that should honestly be illegal. However, I do not write today to decide where the line between legal and illegal gunnery is. Instead, I write to say that due to Plaintiffs’ status as both 1Ls and gunners, they, like their section team’s name, “never stood a chance.”¹² The law says that they lose, and so they shall.

Accordingly, I concur.

9 1L Gunners v. Everyone Else, 324 U.Va. 22 (2019).

10 2Ls Who Are Way Too Eager to Post on LinkedIn v. Everyone Else, 75 U.Va. 2 (2022).

11 That’s right, I heard you.

12 Sarah Walsh, Ranking 1L Section Softball Team Names, Va. L. Wkly., Sept. 21, 2022, at 3.

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7 And the team motto: No thoughts, just dingers.

8 We have a future public defender on the team, for Christ’s sake—we can’t just be throwing money out left and right.

Barristers United Match Report September 25, 2022

Jack Brown '23
Sports Editor



This week’s Barristers match was one of the most anticipated of the season, as the team squared off with one of its perpetual rivals, the incorrectly named “Champion FC,” in what many pundits saw as a faceoff between the two strongest squads in the league. Spirits were high with a 1 p.m. kickoff time, with team captain Aziz Rashidzada '23 instructing the squad to stay cool, calm, and collegial out on the field, no matter what Champion FC did to try to get under our skin.

Barristers was able to execute this plan to perfection with a comfortable win, even though the final score line of 1-0 might make a less informed reader think the game was a close affair. It took less than five minutes for Barristers to take the lead, thanks to a clinical finish by Seth Coven '25, who was able to capitalize on a deflection to open his Barristers account in a crucial game. This goal, and a highlight run a few minutes later, would be the peak of his game experience, as a slight ham-

string pull and getting stung by a wasp ended his day a little bit early. The physical staff expect to clear him to play next week.

After some back-and-forth play, Barristers took control of the game, with Champion FC looking mesmerized by the Barristers’ possession. A midfield triangle of Zack Pierce '24, Jacob Baltzegar '24, and Kathryn Peters '24 dominated the game and helped force Champion FC to try and play their wingers in and behind with long balls, since they couldn’t get anything going in the middle of the pitch.

The few times Champion FC was able to keep hold of the ball long enough to mount an attack, they were smothered by one of the most complete backlines I have ever seen in my decades-long career. At the center of the defense is the ever dependable Tom Schnoor '23, who is looking to add yet another trophy to his impressive collection before hanging up his Barristers jersey.

Joining him in the back was a collection of players that Barristers fans might not be as familiar with. Highly touted youth product Sir Thomas Cerja IV '24

impressed with his play down the right side, while a trio of 1Ls, Zach Zamoff '25, Elena Murray '25, and Cam DiGiovanni '25, dominated the entire game. During the preseason, there were concerns about the lack of defensive depth from the Barristers, but the Class of 2025 has more than stepped up already to fill that void. Credit has to be given to both the scouting department and developmental staff for—year in and year out—bringing talent to Charlottesville.

All in all, it was a comfortable game where the Barristers were unlucky to not get on the score sheet more. While last week’s explosive performance showed that the squad has the potential to score at will, so far it has been their defense that has truly impressed. Tune back in next week, as the Barristers have a rematch against ENNSA, the team they walloped 7-0 last week.

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HOT BENCH



Brigid Harrington '25

Interviewed by Andrew Allard '25

Tell me about yourself! Where are you from, what’s your undergrad, and what brought you to law school?

I’m from Barnegat, New Jersey, and I went to Notre Dame, which was a lot of fun. I was a double major in political science and theater, with a minor in public service. And I have been a professional actor for my whole life. I was in *Mary Poppins* when it was on Broadway, before it closed. I also recorded the original voice of Koko on the Disney Channel TV show *Chuggington*, which is an animated show about trains. I also did a lot of work in regional theater in Philadelphia. I had to stop that when I went to Notre Dame, where I explored my interest for political science and public service and decided that that was the path that I wanted to take. But I am not necessarily giving up

the things that I learned as an actor. The legal profession very much relies on good communications skills and good persuasion skills. Those are all things that I learned to do as an actor, so I’m just applying those skills to this path now.

Have you found your acting experience helpful in law school? I feel like it would be helpful with cold calls.

I was just going to say that, yeah. As an actor, you’re expected to be able to address large groups of people. Sometimes, I’d be singing in front of audiences of 2,000 people, so I’m not self-conscious about speaking in front of people. That’s made cold calls less frightening. I think memorization has helped, too. If my agent says, “You have an audition tomorrow; here’s the copy, here’s the script,” I sometimes have less than a day to memorize a script. That’s a really quick turnover, so memorization is always a plus.

Do you think you’ll do *Li-bel*?

I am thinking about it. If they would have me.

Awesome, hopefully they will! You mentioned that you minored in public service. Did you have time off in between undergrad and law school?

I’m coming straight through, but I did three internships on the Hill on the House side, which was lots of fun. So, I got some professional experience in the real world outside of acting.

Any valuable insights from the work on the Hill?

Well, I was interning on the

Hill before COVID, during COVID, and after COVID. So, it was just fascinating to see how the government responded to the Coronavirus pandemic. And, you know, what a time to be on the Hill!

That’s pretty crazy. What’s your overall impression of UVA so far?

Everybody says UVA is collegial; that’s something that the Admissions team really hammers home. I would say that it’s absolutely true to my experience so far. The students are eager to make friends—eager to lend a hand—and that’s something that I can attest to, for sure. But also, Charlottesville is beautiful. I feel fortunate to be in this area. It just started getting chilly, so I’m excited for fall weather here. UVA is just a rigorous community that’s also filled with good people, which is hard to find.

You mentioned that you don’t have any Friday classes—I’m jealous. Do you spend that time studying more, or are you doing fun things with your section?

My section always does something Thursday night and Friday night. I want to give a shout out to Sarah Combs '25 and Madeline Hall '25, who organized our first *Harry Potter* watch party, where we had real butterbeer. That was lots of fun. I recommend the other sections try out a watch party.

Love the shoutout. So, we are both Android users, which is possibly controversial. Do you have any other hot takes?

Hmm . . . I think Coke is better than Pepsi. I don’t know if

that’s really a hot take, though. **I feel like that’s a very lukewarm take.**

Alright, well that’s my hottest take!

Haha, I love that. Do you have a favorite spot you’ve visited in Charlottesville that you’d recommend to people?

I would definitely recommend Carter Mountain. The scenery is beautiful, and there are such cute fall shops that everybody should check out. Apparently, there’s live music as well. Besides Carter Mountain, the Trader Joe’s is quite nice.

Always good advice. Is there anything in or out of class that you’re excited to do while you’re here?

I’m really looking forward to J-term. From what I’ve heard, that’s an exciting time to pursue your interests in a lower-stakes way, so I’m really looking forward to that. I’m also looking forward to pro bono hours. I think that it’s really encouraging that so many people in our class have been eager to try to get those hours in. I think it’s a good service to the community, and I’m excited to be a part of it as well.

Okay, lightning round! Your favorite 1L class so far?

Crim with Jeffries, without a doubt. Legendary, what a great legal thinker. It’s an honor to get to learn from him.

Favorites snack in Student Affairs?

Welch’s fruit snacks. That’s my go-to. I wish they had Oreos. Or like Chips Ahoy or something.

That would be good. Maybe they’ll read this,

and they can get on it. Any spirit week outfits that you’re proud of?

I loved undergrad spirit day because Notre Dame people take Notre Dame very seriously. I actually unintentionally participated in it last week. I didn’t know that it was undergrad spirit day, but I just happened to be wearing a Notre Dame shirt. So, it kind of worked out.

That’s so funny! To avoid controversy among our pro-cat and pro-dog readers, do you have a favorite pet besides a cat or dog?

Oh, hermit crabs. I had a lot of hermit crabs growing up on the Jersey Shore, so we would get hermit crabs for pretty cheap at beach gift shops. They always seemed to get out of the cage, so sometimes my sister and I would just find a hermit crab on the floor.

What’s the best season, and why?

Fall, obviously. I love the fall. I just bought three fall-scented candles. Pro tip: There are three-dollar fall candles at Walmart that are so *high quality*. You would think they’re Yankee Candle. I recommend Bourbon Pecan Pie.

That sounds so good, I’ll be getting five of them. Last one: Are aliens real?

I’m sure something’s out there . . . I don’t quite know what—maybe they don’t look green and have antennas—but I’m sure that something’s out there, somewhere.

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Introduction to Employer Interactions for KJDs

Garrett Coleman '25
Staff Editor



This past Wednesday, the Office of Private Practice graciously brought many 1Ls up to speed on that most pressing of issues: how to interact with employers. From my perspective, my fellow KJDs and I had the most to gain from this primer on how to talk to people outside of a classroom.

First among the issues was the tone with which you address these potential employers. Unfortunately, helpful phrases such as “at your earliest convenience” betray the perception that you care about the employer’s time. Rather than make it obvious that all you want in life is to pay off your loans, the audience learned that employer interactions are a delicate tango of flattery. Ask them questions they know how to answer. Respond promptly to any communications from them. Do not further burden them with work of any sort. Never negotiate salary until at least the third interview. This frame of mind, in which you briefly sacrifice your interests to ease the employer’s workload, is absolutely necessary.

Closely related to this is the process of networking. When meeting with or calling attor-

neys to learn about how fulfilling—or lucrative—their careers are, it is critical to do your research beforehand. Know their alma maters, if and for whom they clerked, and where they are from so that you can ruthlessly exploit any similarities. Further, quality over quantity is the name of the game. Bragging about your incredibly high firm count will not do nearly as much good as the student who takes the time to forge genuine relationships with his contacts. But beware, networking can be overdone, to your detriment. Do not inundate the firms with communication or stalk every event in their calendar. Demonstrate your interest in a professional way and let the process take shape.

Much of the talk centered around large, campus-wide events, such as On Grounds Interviews (OGI) and the Firm Mix & Mingle coming this October. First on the To-Do List is crafting a short narrative statement in which you can quickly explain to a recruiter why you came to law school, for reasons other than softball. I initially feared that my philosophy major and subsequent lack of confidence in the job market were insufficient. But Kevin Donovan was sure to assuage similarly situated students that they must have some story to tell, or else they would not be walking these Grounds.

He also explained how Career Services is available to help every student craft that narrative, and that their questions merely pull out the special characteristics of every UVA Law student.

Another revelatory aspect of this part of the presentation was the physical nature of events such as OGI, especially considering that many KJDs have basked in the comfort of virtual interviews and internships. Here are a few ground rules: (1) Do not eat messy food; (2) You may have one drink only; (3) Your left hand *must not* enter the handshake process; (4) Be persistent in getting your body into the carnivorous circles that form around recruiters; (5) Always help your classmates as they attempt to do the same. This process is further complicated by a reality described by OPP: “A lot of attorneys are awkward.” In many ways, this puts the onus on the UVA Law student to adapt her behavior to accommodate that attorney who would rather be reading in a hermitage.

When events do not take place in person, though, some additional rules of etiquette are introduced in exchange for you not having to wear pants. Your Zoom background needs to be clean and hide the fact that you stopped doing the dishes when your readings picked up. OPP explained how you should have

notifications disabled, so as to give all your attention to the employer at hand. Your artistic goal in these settings should be to make the interaction as real as possible, letting your charm and good looks flow through the camera as they do in Spies Garden.

Lastly, strategies for the follow-up period were laid out. For those special someone attorneys that you really connected with in the speed-dating round, a personalized “thank you” email is a must. This, of course, should be formal in nature, filled to the brim with complete sentences, and able to actually demonstrate that you can differentiate that conversation from the dozens of others you had at OGI. Also, Lauren Parker explained how, for some older recipients and judges, paper “thank you” notes may be appropriate and add an additional touch of appreciation. Upon further research, I believe that these “paper thank you notes” refer to ancient English common law writs, used when lords and ladies found emails discourteous.

I am quite certain that the prospects of my fellow KJDs and I were greatly improved by this thorough and engaging presentation on interacting with employers.

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Panel
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legislature, we have a one-party system, they have so gerrymandered the electoral system that we will never—at least for the next 10 years—get anything but not just Republicans, but Republicans who are more conservative than the population at large,” said Durham.

Inspired by audience questions, the panel then discussed the harms experienced by LG-BTQ+ individuals who are denied service, as well as those incurred by religious people forced to provide services against their values. Justice Durham suggested that the harms experienced by small business owners who refuse service are less significant than those suffered by LGBTQ+ people. Wilson, however, expressed concern that the harms experienced by the religious cake baker or website designer may lead to his retreat from civic life, a similarly unacceptable outcome.

In the waning moments of the event, Tabacco Mar vocalized her frustration that LGBTQ+ people are made to compromise their identities for the sake of avoiding conflict and noted that the pain of being denied service cut deep.

“I encourage everyone to think about what the harm really looks like for the couple that is turned away. It is enduring... and it forever changes your relationship with the marketplace,” said Tabacco Mar.

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VJIL
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need that kind of negativity in my life. I already have a class that ends at 5:40pm – I’m not looking forward to the time of year when it’s dark by the time I go home. However, there was no darkness at in the room that evening. It was nice to take a night off while simultaneously justifying it to myself as a responsible and productive academic event.

After getting a nametag, I made a beeline for the pizza. Having free food at events is always wonderful because it ensures that you always have some excuse to avoid filling awkward silences, as well as something to keep you busy so you don’t just stand around waiting for someone you know. I myself took part in the time-honored tradition of standing politely on the edge of a circle of people and pretending to follow along with the conversation. Soon afterwards, the evening became a game of “I didn’t know that person was on VJIL!” followed by “Is it socially acceptable to go say “hi” to them?”

Thankfully, I was able to latch on to someone I knew and join her group at their table, which was a fantastic way to meet people while not feeling overwhelmed by my newbie status. Soon, we were deep in conversation about the quirks of different languages and our thoughts on local restaurants. I got to catch up with old friends and make new ones. When asked

for a comment, one member said, “I’m so glad to be a 2L. It’s so much better to be able to choose my own classes and to not be a 1L. Wait, is this anonymous?”¹

One of the televisions at the bar was even playing Jeopardy, which was an unexpected but quite welcome surprise. However, the highlight of my evening had to be the lavender lemon kombucha they served. It was sparkling, not too sweet, and full of flavor, and it paired extremely well with the crispy and savory pizza. It also helped that I hadn’t had lunch that day. You have to make the system work for you – just fill up on the free stuff!

At some point, I can only say out “we went to a brewery and ate pizza” in so many words.² Overall, it was a relaxing, chill evening where I got to meet some of the many interesting and accomplished people who make up VJIL.

1 These comments are a statement of opinion and do not reflect VJIL’s position or views about 1Ls.

2 And I’m trying to hit a word count here.

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Complaint from Section D

A portion of the unprecedented COPA complaint is published here for your viewing pleasure. Why didn't we publish all of it? Because we don't want to incentivize gunner behavior (also we ran out of room).

<p>12. Defendant's teams' names contain neither creativity nor "team nameness," as Defendant defined the phrase.</p> <p>13. Defendant's teams' names meet only one out of her five stated criteria for an ideal softball team name.</p> <p>14. Webster's dictionary defines "hypocritical" as "characterized by behavior that contradicts what one claims to believe."</p> <p>15. Defendant's writing is hypocritical.</p> <p>16. Plaintiff makes no claim against Sarah Walsh in her personal capacity because she is a lovely person and an otherwise excellent softball captain.¹</p> <p>ARGUMENT</p> <p>The Law Weekly is an important, widely read, and beloved institution at the Law School. Its credibility as a source of humor and witty critique is a large part of its reputation. This credibility is earned, not given. Upperclassmen have credibility to poke fun at 1Ls because they were once poor, wretched 1Ls. Students can relay and laugh at professors' quotes because they must endure the professors' classes. Similarly, upperclassmen may scrutinize 1L softball team names because they once attempted to draft witty softball names. Or so one would hope.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Defendant has never had a creative softball team name of her own. Her formula for drafting softball team names has only two variables: (1) the plain English name of the section and (2) the choice of the word "section" or the section symbol. The first variable is chosen for her by the Law School, and the second variable is not a creative choice. As a law student, Defendant may have forgotten altogether that section is a word, not just a symbol. As the adage goes, one should not throw rocks from a glass house. In this case, Defendant's house is made of pompous vapor, and Defendant threw the rocks from a public perch.</p> <p>RELIEF REQUESTED</p> <p>Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court bar the Law Weekly from allowing staff members with uninspiring softball team names to publish critiques of creative softball team names. Alternatively, Plaintiff requests that the Court require the Law Weekly to publicly disclose the softball team names of staff members writing articles critiquing softball team names.</p> <p>¹ Plaintiff respectfully notes that Defendant's flavorlessly named softball team is the reigning NGSJ softball champion.</p>	<p>1. Plaintiffs are law students at the University of Virginia School of Law (the Law School) suing Sarah Walsh, a student at the Law School, in her capacity as a Staff Editor for the Virginia Law Weekly, an institution based at the Law School. The District Court of Petty Complaints has subject matter jurisdiction over claims between students at the Law School and claims against The Virginia Law Weekly.</p> <p>STATEMENT OF FACTS</p> <p>2. In the 21 September 2022 edition of the Virginia Law Weekly (the Law Weekly), the Law Weekly published an article titled "Ranking 1L Section Softball Team Names" (the Article) on page 3.</p> <p>3. Sarah Walsh (Defendant), the personal defendant, wrote the Article in her capacity as a Staff Editor for the Law Weekly, the institutional defendant.</p> <p>4. Defendant is a captain of the softball team "S & Pals." She has been a captain of S & Pals for two years. The 2L iteration of the team was named "2L S & Pals."</p> <p>5. Defendant is currently the captain of S & Pals and was the captain of 2L S & Pals last year. Defendant played for the 1L iteration of the team, but she was neither the team's captain nor a member of its constituent 1L section.</p> <p>6. Defendant is a member of Section H of the class of 2023. Members of Section H cannot recall whether they ever had a softball team name. Due to the confusion and the general lack of 1L softball in 2020-2021, Plaintiff bases their complaint on Defendant's conduct as a 2L and 3L.</p> <p>7. Captains in the North Grounds Softball League (NGSL) are responsible for submitting team names. The two teams whose names Defendant was responsible for submitting were named S & Pals and 2L S & Pals.</p> <p>8. S & Pals and 2L S & Pals are plain names with little creative embellishment.</p> <p>9. In the Article, Defendant identified three criteria for an ideal softball team name: "(1) a legal (or generally law-adjacent) pun, (2) a softball/sports pun, and (3) use of the section's letter."</p> <p>10. Defendant's teams' names contain neither legal puns nor softball puns. They contain no puns at all.</p> <p>11. Defendant identified two further criteria for an ideal softball team name in the Article: "(4) creativity and (5) team nameness" (basically, how closely the team's name follows the traditional sports team naming format of "The [Noun]'s" or, if you really want to get wild, "The [Adjective/Adverb] [Noun]'s")."</p>
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