



VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

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

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So, You're Applying to Take the Bar

Dana Lake
Editor-in-Chief

Bar applications are a nebulous sort of anxiety for law students, always around but still far enough away that it might be forgotten about for weeks at a time. Sort of like a rainstorm on the distant horizon, or assigned readings in a paper class. Spring semester means it is time for 3Ls to finally ask their firms to shell out the hundreds of dollars these applications cost, and put their honor on the line.

If you are the sort of person who has wondered if you have ever been charged for a crime and you don't know it, or if you anxiously check to make sure the original copy of your birth certificate has not been consumed by rats since the last time you saw it, even though it never leaves your filing cabinet, this article is for you. The truth is that applying to take a bar exam is not that hard. By spending only ten minutes working on the application every PR class, you can have the whole thing done before the professor even gets to candor.¹

That isn't a recommendation to wait until the day before the filing deadline to start, though. If you are a standard applicant who has never gotten a parking ticket and worked for only one company before law school, you can breeze through pretty quickly. But much like law school applications, there are character and fitness questions that can take more time to answer (and provide documentation for) than you might expect. Even seemingly innocuous questions like, "Did this job require you to substantially engage in the practice of law?" can lead you down a rabbit hole that requires a panicked email to your PR professor.² No one wants to ask their firm to pay a late fee before they have even started working.

¹ This is a joke, I did my application like I have done every other law school assignment: in one marathon session with only breaks for more coffee.

² Shout out to Professor Mitchell, who does not read the *Law Weekly* but does respond to emails in a timely manner.

The Bar page 6

Office of Private Practice to 1Ls: "Winter Is Coming"



Andrew Allard
Staff Editor

After successfully completing their first semester of law school, 1Ls were welcomed back last week with a mandatory reorientation and a quasi-mandatory stress-out session with the Office of Private Practice. OPP wrote in an email to 1Ls that its exclusive event would not be recorded and would contain information not duplicated in email or online. "Wrong!" said one writer for the *Law Weekly*, who wondered why busy students were being needlessly inconvenienced. So, said writer—despite being more than a little partial to public service—attended the event to provide a summary for our dear readers. No need to thank me.

Tl;dr:

1. The job market for law firms is better than you might think.
2. Start networking. But not so much that you get burnt out. Be selective.
3. Your GPA matters but is by no means outcome determinative.
4. OPP strongly recommends getting your application documents ready before spring exams start.

Confusingly, much of this information *was* in fact duplicated in email. I can only conclude that OPP's red-print admonition to attend the event in person was intended to alert 1Ls seeking firm jobs to the seriousness of the next nine months. In fairness to OPP, that warning is probably well-placed. 1Ls might be eager to let loose now that they have a full semester under their belts, but winter is coming, and with it an avalanche of firms. So, with that in mind, if you want more detail than what is provided above, refer to the OPP Kickoff email sent on January 20. Or, if you want that information filtered through the Law School's most clueless 1L, read on.

The Firm Job Market

If you're a consumer of doomsday news, you may be concerned that the imminent and inevitable recession is going to crush your dreams of yachting, caviar, and the like. Fortunately, according to OPP, your concerns may be overblown. Layoffs are not yet widespread and have instead been concentrated in tech-heavy firms. Plus, there's still a possibility of a soft landing. So just trust the process, take good advice, and you'll have a good shot at landing a job at a major firm. And, if worse comes to worst, OPP has a game plan. So don't panic (yet).

Firm Networking

The big message here is quality over quantity. It's better for you to focus your energy on preparing to network with the firms that you're really interested in. Nobody should do everything, but everyone should do something. City days or practice-specific events are especially helpful for students with specific interests. There are also some single-firm events if that's your thing. Look out for emails from OPP or check Symplicity if you're looking for networking opportunities.

Grades! What Even Are They?

The gist is that your GPA does (not) matter. Some firms care more about GPA than others. But a firm's GPA preferences do not determine a firm's quality. Mostly, your GPA helps you develop your networking strategy and prioritize firms. OPP kindly provides firm grade data to interested students. Keep in mind that you are by no means strictly limited to firms within your GPA range, particularly if you have other desirable characteristics (work experience, people skills, connection to the practice area or firm, underrepresented status, etc.), which I'm sure you do! So don't assume you can't apply somewhere because of your grades, and if you have questions about what your GPA means for firm jobs, talk to OPP.

Application Timeline

The timeline for interviewing

and job offers is not one-size-fits-all. Some firms, particularly in the New York market, will probably open up for early interviews after spring exams. Others may wait for the traditional Summer OGI. To err on the side of caution, OPP strongly recommends having your résumé and cover letters ready to go before exams start. In recent years, some students received job offers as early as June or July. But, as with the answer to all legal questions, it depends. In any event, do not *ask* for an early interview. That's weird and a total NYU move. Lastly, be on the lookout for summer job fairs as well. Organic opportunities outside of OGI are a major source of job offers.

Winter OGI

If you are participating in Winter OGI this semester, OPP has a lot of thoughts about how you should do this, including the precise number of times you should knock on the door for your interview. (Yes, seriously.) If you are in this boat (and are anxious enough to be concerned about these kinds of things), then I assume you are already in touch with OPP about interviewing best practices. But in short: Be on time, knock three times before entering, take up no more space than your chair, and don't wear perfume or cologne. This could mean the difference between landing at Sullivan & Cromwell or the poorhouse.

Honorable Mention

"Please don't take advice on Reddit." 'Nuff said.

In closing, if you have any questions, reach out to OPP at privatepractice@lawschool.virginia.edu. 1Ls, they are your office for the next nine months. And if anyone at OPP feels that I have miscommunicated any of the kickoff information, please accept my sincere apologies and understand that I would warmly welcome a corrected event summary from OPP.

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around north grounds



Thumbs up to the UVA Law Subreddit. ANG is proud to attend a school with consistently one of the least helpful places on the internet.



Thumbs down to all those people who went south for the holidays. ANG had to stay here, and hates those who could wear short sleeves in January.



Thumbs up to all those who went north. ANG loves pointing and laughing at people who have it worse off than ANG.



Thumbs sideways to a federal appeals court rejecting Johnson & Johnson's effort to block baby powder lawsuits through bankruptcy. ANG thinks corporations should have to choose lamer names for their corporate machinations, saying "Texas Two Step" is too much fun.



Thumbs down to whoever controls the Law School thermostat. ANG wants the indoor temperature to be at least ten degrees cooler, and hates having to shed five layers after walking from ANG's dumpster.



Thumbs up to thumbs. ANG loves the rush of power, and feels like a Roman Emperor presiding over gladiatorial combat.



Thumbs sideways to editors using chat gpt to write their articles. ANG is a passionate supporter of the arts and fears what our new AI overlords might have wrought upon us, but also loves to procrastinate on assignments.



Thumbs up to the library coffee machine with the calcium buildup in the hot water. ANG can't afford milk anymore, so extra calcium is great once you get past the chunks.



¡Qué Sorpresa! A Review of Cville's Humming Taco Truck Scene

Devon Chenelle '23
Prose Style Editor



My parents, who lived in Charlottesville during the 1990s, always spoke of it as a charming little Southern¹ town, and one of the best college towns in America. To my delight, I have found that to be true. Charlottesville is a delightful place, and it's no wonder so many choose to live here, even absent a connection to UVA. However, while I expected Charlottesville to have gorgeous scenery, delightful used bookstores, and a wonderful downtown, one of the greatest pleasures of my time here has been the most surprising: the incredible quality of the Mexican food. Coming from Chicago, which does the cuisine better than anywhere in America except maybe Southern California,² I was not expecting Central

¹ To all the readers coming from Alabama, Mississippi, etc. ready to interject, "This isn't the Real South!", there was a gigantic statue of Robert E. Lee downtown until six months ago.

² I love you, Texas, but I have to tell you: For some reason, the Tex-Mex just doesn't quite bring it.

Virginia to absolutely bring it with the *sabor latino*. But it does! I, accustomed to the gastronomical delights of Pilsen and the Little Village, have been blown away by the *calidad* of the Mexican culinary offerings in our humble college town. With this article, I hope to introduce and entice my readers to the avant garde of the Charlottesville taco scene: the food trucks increasingly crowding the streets and delighting our palates.

The first taco truck I encountered in Charlottesville, and still one of my favorites, was Tacos Gomez, located at the corner of High Street and Long Street along the Rivanna River. Tacos Gomez is my daytime go-to in Charlottesville, perfect for taco runs in between classes. They are fully capable of bringing the heat with their spicy sauces and offer tacos, alambres, and tortas, a type of sandwich. I must confess that I have not tried the tortas, but, judging from the quality of their other offerings, I can only presume that they are comparably excellent. My go-to is the "alambre mix," which is a combination of different meats, veggies, and cheese, complete with tortillas. The fast preparation, low prices, and incredible seasonings and spices on their



Pictured: The El Tako Nako Truck. Credit: The El Tako Nako Facebook page.

freshly prepared meals make Tacos Gomez one of the most enjoyable dining experiences in Charlottesville, and their outdoor seating is a pleasure, especially once the weather here takes a turn for the better. Make sure to ask for the spicy sauce!

The next food truck I will review is actually not Mexican food, as Comida Latina Rosy Food Truck, situated right next to Tacos Gomez, offers the interesting flavors of Honduran cuisine, a specialty I was shocked to see offered at such a high level in Charlottesville. Some of my favorites there include the *pupusas* and their *pollo con tajadas*. If you are enamored with the flavors and spices of Mexican cuisine, but want

to try a different, albeit recognizable, spin on the genre, I can't recommend Comida Latina Rosy highly enough. They also offer a covered awning for seating, which proves crucial in the cold and rainy Charlottesville January.

However, as positive as my feelings are about almost all of Charlottesville's Mexican food offerings, the king stands alone. I am referring to El Tako Nako, a glowing center of culinary excellence located on Hydraulic Road, promisingly parked right in front of the local laundromat. El Tako Nako, which is open daily from 5 p.m. to midnight, is not only the finest late-night eating spot in Charlottesville by a mile (I

giggle as I drive past the long line of cars arrayed in front of Cook Out waiting for their greasy paper bags on my way to the freshly prepared goodness of Tako Nako), but also offers some of the best tacos I've ever had. Honestly, El Tako Nako is so incredible that I was loath to describe it in this column, as I enjoy the generally short lines for their scrumptious fare. But, as I sadly only have a few months remaining in Charlottesville, I might as well reveal the secret. Though slightly more expensive than Tacos Gomez, every cent is worth it for El Tako Nako's delectable and freshly made fare. Their chicken tacos, complemented with peppers and their spicy red sauce, are quite possibly the finest dish in all of Charlottesville. Though I am not as wild about their *quesadillas*, which are a little too much bread and cheese for me, every taco I've ever ordered there has blown me out of the water. The friendly treatment and swift preparation of food makes El Tako Nako an indispensable, tasty weapon in the arsenal of any student laboring through late nights in the library, and it offers tacos far tastier than Charlottesville has any right to have.

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How to Save Money & Live Better: A Guide to Charlottesville Grocery Stores

Caleb Stephens '23
Technology Editor



We've all been here at least one semester now, and it's time to get an opinion on one of the most relevant questions of our day. Which Charlottesville grocery store is the best? Fortunately, the *Virginia Law Weekly* is here to answer your questions and review the closest and most popular grocery stores of Charlottesville.

Kroger

Barracks Kroger. We all know it. We've all been there. Many of us probably have a Kroger card. Kroger, in general, is pretty solid. It has a good assortment of items, and reasonable prices on average. In particular, if you catch an item you need on sale, you can really save a lot. Kroger store-brand items also are pretty solid, although the two of which I am most fond are the canned lima beans and the deluxe ice cream (Death By Chocolate or Vanilla Bean, consistently on sale for \$2.50 a carton). Unfortunately, the Barracks Kroger is the worst of the three Krogers within easy distance. The new Kroger app is very annoying, and you have to use it to get some advertised deals, so beware of those sale prices. In general, Kroger is there. It's not as cheap or well-stocked as Walmart, but it's got good produce and store-brand products, and it runs good promotions.

Most of what I said about the

Barracks Kroger also applies to the Hydraulic Kroger (yes, the one almost literally across the road). However, the Hydraulic Kroger tends to be a bit better stocked, cleaner, and less crowded, and it has a gas station. Sadly, it is also a little bit sketchier, probably thanks to the VABC it shares a parking lot with. The clientele is also, strangely, almost solely Charlottesville natives, rather than the college students that shop across the street. This probably says something profound about college students, but I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

Then there's the Rio Center Kroger. This one is much less sketchy, since the wooded area in front of the Dollar General was turned into a bank(? I think?), and the parking lot *does* have a historical marker in it. This Kroger is the best stocked, cleanest, and, sadly, furthest from Grounds.¹ It is the one I've had the most success in returning glass milk bottles to for the bottle deposit, so that's worth keeping in mind as well.

Walmart

If you continue down Seminole Trail, you finally get to the Walmart, which is the cheapest option. Unfortunately, the Charlottesville Walmart is one of the worst Walmarts I've ever been in. It tends to have trouble keeping items in stock (thanks, college students), stuff tends to

¹ Yes, I know, it's probably not a coincidence.

be in the wrong place (college students, ugh), and it tends to feel crowded (again, students). The parking lot is also tiny and, mysteriously, always has at least twenty cars in it, even at 5 a.m., two hours before the store opens, which definitely contributes to a feeling of unease. The staff are mostly competent though, and there are at least two cashiers that manage one of the self checkout lanes who are exceptional.² That said, it's a distinctly unpleasant experience, although it may be worth the amount saved by its customers. Whenever possible, I visit the Ruckersville Walmart instead, which is one of the nicest Walmarts I've ever visited.³

Aldi

For those of you who like store-brand food, Aldi is pretty cheap, but the amounts are smaller. Almost everything will be Aldi brand, but it tends to be pretty good.⁴ If you're on a tight budget, that's not bad, but if you want to buy in bulk, there are better options. Unfortunately, it's pretty far out, and its organi-

² Seriously, I've seen them guiding people into place like a NASCAR pit crew.

³ Or, if you're willing to drive about thirty minutes, the Gordonsville Walmart is also excellent.

⁴ Shoutout to the 3L who got an excellent charcuterie board in the random junk aisle at Aldi. It is really nice, if you're a charcuterie person.

zation is somewhat lacking. I've been told by Aldi reps that this is intentional, as they try to keep the staff low in order to keep down costs, but it does come at a price in both appearance and shopping experience. For those of you who have never visited an Aldi, it's a cheaper, non-organic Trader Joe's with a better floor plan.⁵

Lidl

Lidl is extremely similar to Aldi but is both newer and closer, and a bit more organized. I think the frozen section is slightly larger, and the "random junk" aisle is definitely more stocked. It's not bad for a different experience, but it is still more expensive than Walmart generally. Again, if you catch something on sale, or you want to buy in smaller quantities, Lidl is a good option, but the real seller is the pretzel rolls. Lidl has a fresh bakery section, and the bread is reasonably priced (frequently less than a dollar) and often still warm. It's worth the occasional visit just for the bread.

Food Lion

Food Lion is kind of like Kroger, but it feels more like a Winn-Dixie or Piggly Wiggly.⁶ The ambiance is a bit nicer than

⁵ Also, they're owned by the same company.

⁶ I have no idea what to reference here if you aren't familiar with those. Good luck, and maybe try visiting somewhere in the South sometime.

Walmart's, but the prices are a bit higher too. They seem to have the same sort of arrangement as Kroger, where everything is normally a bit high, but they run regular sales. That said, their disposable bags are blue, which is a solid choice, and their branding is on point.

Harris Teeter

Back on likely more familiar territory, Harris Teeter is very close to Grounds. Funnily enough, both Harris Teeter and Kroger are owned by the same parent company. That said, they're pretty different. Harris Teeter is kind of like a more upscale Kroger, with prices to match. Fortunately, they have a good student loyalty program, with a regular 5 percent discount for college students with their loyalty card.⁷ Unfortunately, their prices tend to be more than 5 percent higher than Walmart's (and, generally, Kroger's). I do hear that the bar at Harris Teeter is quite the deal, but it also tends to actually have regulars, so watch your step.

Wegmans

Wegmans is in a different class. If you shop there, you're probably either rich or have no idea how much you're getting in loans. For my fellow Floridians, it's like a nicer Publix crossed

⁷ This also applies to law students, in case you're wondering, and it's not very difficult to get a card.

Grocery page 6

A Spoiler-Free Review of Avatar: The Way of Water

Jonathan Peterson '23
Co-Executive Editor



Avatar: The Way of Water is a beautiful movie underscored by compelling messages. However, the movie falls short of its potential thanks to writing and character development that is far less effective than the movie's visuals and the messages those visuals support. Ultimately, the movie is certainly a success despite these shortcomings, and it succeeds exactly where it intends to: immersing viewers in a beautiful world and inspiring them to care about that world. Some viewers may find the messaging overly didactic and heavy handed—however, these qualities may be a necessary evil in order to drive home the movie's themes effectively.

Visuals and World Building

It isn't hyperbole to refer to *The Way of Water* as stunning. This should be expected, considering the movie's predecessor, which was marketed largely on its revolutionary use of CGI. The movie is in its element when depicting the world of Pandora and the intimate lives of Pandora's inhabitants, the Na'vi. The movie spends a significant amount of time in the forest, allowing viewers to reacclimate themselves to the story, which is now over a decade old. However, the visuals

truly take off when the movie shifts to a new coastal culture.

By switching the setting, the film allows viewers to immerse themselves in and explore the beauty of Pandora. Not only does this allow the director, James Cameron, to blow the socks off of viewers with beautiful scenes of various aquatic animals, it enables Cameron to create and insert new and compelling forces that push forward the themes that make the backbone of this series.

One common, and perhaps valid, complaint about these scenes concerns what feels like an unnecessary amount of time designated for the sole purpose of showing off the visuals but not actually pushing the story forward narratively. While I think this complaint is valid, it should not be emphasized too much. In a story that needs its audience to be invested in the world in order to appreciate the story's themes, it seems necessary to spend a significant amount of time actually emphasizing the natural world and why the characters care for it, so that the audience can appreciate the broader themes and messages of the movie.

Themes and Messages

The Way of Water is designed around two central themes: the conflict between environmentalism and corporate goals as well as family. The environmental focus of the movie should come as no surprise to those who have seen the first movie, as it is carried



Pictured: A shot from Avatar. Credit: The Verge.

over wholesale between the two films. However, while environmentalism was certainly the main theme of the first movie, family, and the idea of extended family, features heavily alongside this environmentalism in *The Way of Water*.

The thematic climax of the conflict between environmentalism and corporate goals is highlighted in the context of harvesting resources from sentient, emotionally complex animals. In short, the film takes the stance that, even if humans had direct and accepted evidence that a species they hunted was more complex spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally than our own species, corporate interests would still justify rather barbaric hunting and harvesting of those animals, despite the moral implications of this action. This theme is what necessitates what many critics have seen as an unnecessary amount of scenes which seem to do nothing to drive the plot forward narratively; these scenes instead serve to

illustrate the full context of the conflict on Na'vi so that viewers can appreciate the spiritual, emotional, and moral complexities inherent to the conflict.

Further, developing this first theme promotes the second: family. The film pushes at what it means to be family and what it means to care for individuals and groups other than oneself. It forces viewers to think about how broad the idea of family should be, and how far the kind of care and love that we extend to family should be extended to individuals and entities outside of one's direct family. This is one of the few themes in the film in which some character development regarding the theme actually occurs outside of just the protagonist's own family.

Character Development and Writing

Character development and, in particular, writing seem to be the main points where the film struggles. Much of the dialogue feels choppy, unnatural, and plain. Many of the charac-

ters feel like they barely grow at all. Certain developments, such as one character's seizure, just *happen*. There's no development or explanation to them whatsoever.

These are the main critiques being levied at the movie at the moment, and they are hard to rebut. The best response that the movie could make to these claims is simply that the movie had different goals, which I think may also be true.

However, it isn't all quite as bad as everyone says. I think that Jake Sully and his family all developed throughout the movie in terms of their respect for each other and their understanding of the value they each brought to the table. Even the main antagonist draws some lines in the sand by the end of the movie that might have surprised viewers.

Conclusion

Overall, *The Way of Water* does what it set out to do and does it well. The movie is far from perfect, but it sets its focus on narrow goals involving imagery and messaging and delivers in those areas. Fans who criticize the movie on the basis of poor writing and character development are absolutely justified in those criticisms. However, they should not allow viewers to be blinded to the areas in which the movie succeeds. Overall, I would rate the movie an eight out of ten.

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Tweedle Dee, Tweedle Dumb: Streetlights

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

Jonathan Peterson '23
Co-Executive Editor



My good friend, Dana Lake, styles the decision to not add harsh, unnatural, and intrusive lighting to the roadsides of Virginia's highways as one designed to ensure that she ends up in a head-on collision. Or hit a deer. Or simply drive off the road. This view is shortsighted and selfish, as I will detail while showing readers that the decision to keep Virginia's roads as dark as death is ineffably the correct choice.

I can sum up my argument in favor of dark roads with one word: conservation. The decision to add lights to roadsides requires resources and space, and it produces unquantifiable costs to conservation of both wildlife and dark skies.

The average street light costs between approximately \$5,000 and \$8,000, with those numbers increasing by about 20 percent for projects on a highway or bridge.¹ These lights cost another \$43.80 for every year they are installed in electricity

1 Wenli, *How Much Does a Street Light Cost to Run*, KangLight, (July 5, 2021) <https://kanglight.com/how-much-does-a-street-light-cost-to-run/>.

fees.² In short, adding more streetlights would require either relocating funds or raising taxes. Relocating funds will result in opportunity costs which may not be justified. Further, with headlights *already being an invention we all use on roads anyway*, the addition of streetlights may not actually increase safety all that much.³

Further, adding these lights will harm conservation beyond just conserving our wallets. Adding streetlights will require developing the sides of roadways. The act of developing these areas, outside of the clear loss of a habitat, however inconsequential that habitat might be, also comes with its own carbon footprint. Not only that, it impacts efforts at preserving dark skies,

2 *Id.* This number goes down for solar street lights.

3 This isn't to say that added lights don't help drivers to observe hazards. However, I am struggling to find any evidence which conclusively links poor visibility due to darkness to increased rates of car crashes. Certainly time of day has an impact; however, there are many potential confounding variables when considering time of day as a proxy for whether good lighting impacts driving safety.

which are proven to be critical for "the proper functioning of natural ecosystems."⁴ These benefits also inure to humans as well, who can appreciate, and thus benefit from, properly conserved night skies.

So, yeah, I don't want Dana to die in a car crash on some dark and windy Virginian road. But I also don't think that more artificial lighting is the right solution. It's called headlights and attentive driving.

Dana Lake '23
Editor-in-Chief



What Jon fails to consider in his well-researched article⁵ is that headlights and attentive driving mean nothing to the grim determination the wild-

4 *Managing Artificial Light to Protect Natural Systems and to Appreciate the Night Sky*, Dark Skies Advisory Group, <http://darkskyparks.org/dark-skies-and-nature-conservation/#:~:text=A%20night%20sky%20without%20artificial,the%20consequences%20of%20light%20pollution> (last visited Jan. 29, 2023).

5 A classic case of adding statistics to meet the word count requirement, no doubt.

life in this commonwealth have in their march toward oblivion via front-end collision. Jon and other extremist environmentalists may value things like "stars" and "nature" over human beings, but most people do not have such a radical disregard for my personal safety.

First, I learned how to drive in Florida, where the only things you have to dodge are other drivers.⁶ The highways are straight lines, with overhead lights nicely spaced every twenty feet or so. They are so nicely illuminated and so straight that you can see incoming problems from a hundred miles down the road. Attentive driving shouldn't mean I am white-knuckle gripping the steering wheel in both hands, leaning forward, and chanting prayers to God under my breath for sixty miles at a time.

Virginia is not a commonwealth built on an intuitive, well-thought-out grid. It is windy and curvy and full of hills that my 2016 Hyundai Accent has a hard time climbing. The Florida Department of Transportation recommends⁷ roadway light-

6 And the occasional iguana.

7 *Stopping Sight Distance on Turning Roads*, Manual of Uniform Standards, FDOT.

ing especially on such roads; VDOT has recklessly left good, honest drivers to the whims of a dark abyss.

Second, how can headlights save me from getting vehicular homicided when more and more cars have LED bulbs instead of halogen. When I imagine the bright light people walk toward when they are moving on to the other side, it is the eerie blue of a high-intensity discharge headlight guiding them.

Don't even get me started on driving in the rain around here, or the horrific bridge I have to walk under outside of Ivy if I want to get a Slurpee at 7-Eleven. Give us some lights, and give me a chance of getting out of this commonwealth with both my car's bumpers intact.

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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

Students

v.

Parking Enforcement
75 U.Va 13 (2022)

KULKARNI, J. delivers the opinion of the court, in which LAKE, C.J., BNINSKI, J., WALSH, J., GRUBBE, J., BROWN, J., PAZHWAQ, J., PETERSON, J., and MORSE, J., join.

J. Kulkarni delivered the opinion of the court.

In the history of this vaunted paper, we have played as the chief dispute mechanism for many petty complaints—issues between individual students, student groups, and even entire class years. But there has always been exactly one group that has found itself on the wrong end of us, the Court of Petty Appeals. That group? The parking enforcement of the University of Virginia. All students, staff, and administration are familiar with this organization. They charge exorbitant annual fees for parking passes and are quick to hand out parking tickets for the shortest of violations. For the simple act of attending the Law School from anywhere not named Pav or Ivy, students are punished with having to pay a surcharge. This has effectively created two classes of students: those who have to interact with parking enforcement on a daily basis and those who do not. It is not surprising, therefore, that today we are faced with yet another cause of action against this parking enforcement. Petitioners consist of administration, staff, and students who filed a complaint alleging that parking enforcement improperly issued parking tickets over the holiday break.

To begin with, we acknowledge the fact the Law School and University writ large have outsourced park-

ing enforcement. This organization has full authority to enforce their own regulations and charge incredibly high fees for the smallest of parking violations. During the school year, this can include parking in the D3 lot when a person has no pass, parking in the D2 lot with no pass, and, the most heinous of all, parking in the D2 lot when the student has only purchased a pass to park in the D3 lot. This parking enforcement is ruthless, requiring everyone to park precisely in the lot they paid for and no

"The parking enforcement goes against all decency by issuing tickets during this period. Anyone taking the chance to enter the Law School during the break is doing so briefly..."

further. For those who take exception, they can either pay a daily rate or risk a ticket. Even further, those paid spots in the D2 lot are in fact controlled by the same organization that runs parking throughout the city (ParkMobile)—a surprise that such an organization is allowed such access to the Law School. The brave rebels who choose to risk a ticket do so to stand up against the authoritarian organization that dictates their lives. Regardless of how this Court feels emotionally about such students, it is the truth that the administration has allowed parking enforcement to set their own policies and enforce them. Despite how broad our mandate is on this Court, the case at bar is not about the overall existence of parking enforcement.

Today, we are focused on the issuance of parking tickets during the holiday break. And this decision is an easy one for us. Parking enforcement went against all norms of de-

experience. There is not a gunner in the world who would make the trek to the Law School for their intense work during the break. Therefore, the actions of parking enforcement go beyond the pale of common decency. But the law is not a demonstration of emotion but of policies. Parking enforcement exists as part of a University system. During the holidays, the University system is shut down. Thankfully, even the staff and administration are technically given the holidays off to recover from the screaming children on Main Grounds and tired graduate students on North Grounds. The boldness of issuing tickets over break to students who make the trek to the Law School over the holidays should be derided. Despite the respondents' claim that the students need to take mitigating actions and park elsewhere and walk to the school, mitigation is only necessary where it would reason-

ably solve the problem at a low cost. Over break, there was a high cost to such an action—the intense cold.

Therefore, parking enforcement should no longer have the authority to issue tickets over the break if the very University they are working with is offline. This policy is similar to parking enforcement's behavior of not enforcing their own regulations during the first month of the academic year. At that time, they find it in the kindness of their own hearts to allow stu-

to issue any tickets until they change this system.

J. Morse, concurring.

I join my esteemed colleague, Justice Kulkarni, to address one of the most pernicious and extractive practices condoned by the law school: charging tuition just below the median household income in the states of Virginia[1] AND charging students to park in lots which are clearly nowhere near capacity. The lack of even a facially-plausible justification for charging parking based on a limited supply of parking spaces is particularly galling. [2] I write separately because I myself was the unfortunate recipient of a parking ticket received over winter break and I am not a gunner. I was, like many students, participating in the Trial Advocacy College which is an excellent source of two pass-fail credits and a wonderful educational experience to boot. If this school will not refrain from charging its students for unused parking spots, the least it could do is not charge students who are here taking J-term classes instead of enjoying their full winter break. And this Court should order my ticket void.

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Faculty Quotes

S. Ballenger: "Sorry I need to dredge this up from my days of defending the kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

M. Livermore: "Do I want people in Nebraska to live healthy lives? Yeah, why not!"

T. Nachbar: "The Civil War is kind of a funny time."


K. Kordana: "Let's say that my customers are the cool people in town...they might be charged for their coolness."

B. Ross: "The Federalist Papers, which I call the 'gaslighting of the American public.'"

C. Barzun: "Romance without sex? Call it: marriage."

J. Mahoney: "Do whales have interests? Are intervenors representing the whales in these cases?"

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



Virginia Law Weekly

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Legal Thoughts on *The Menu* (Spoilers)

Garrett Coleman '25
Staff Editor



On a long break at home, there are few things better to do with your folks than go to a movie. But when I scrolled through Flixster, there was not too much grabbing my attention. Based on the cast, *The Menu* obviously jumped off the screen the most, though I was not too sure my mom would appreciate a thriller with a predictable-seeming plot: *Now, the guests become the menu*. Nonetheless, we persisted, and I had a wonderful experience. Beyond the solid acting and well-written dark humor, there was something about *The Menu* that connected with me on a visceral level, and the legal field certainly has something to do with that. A theme that I saw in the movie—alienation from the joy that art provides and the destructive effects of that detachment—has certainly been noticeable in law school, even somewhere as lovely as UVA.

A brief synopsis is in order for those who have not seen *The Menu*. Nearly the entire film takes place on a remote island that hosts the Hawthorn, an uber-preentious restaurant in which all the food comes from local flora and fauna. It is staffed

by a battalion of skilled chefs loyal to Julian Slowik, played by Ralph Fiennes. They serve a hodgepodge of high clientele: billionaires, movie stars, food critics, and tech bros, who are all equally unlikely, with one exception. That exception is a foodie's escort, Margot, played by Anya Taylor-Joy (you can probably imagine who gets off the island). After some deconstructed plates resembling food are served, Chef Slowik reveals how much he hates the restaurant's guests. Chief among their sins is entitlement—they have brilliant food before them but utterly lack appreciation or gratitude for the art that Slowik creates. So, he designs the perfect menu in which they all die in a human s'mores roast. That is, everyone except for Margot, who solves the survival puzzle by finding an old picture of Slowik with a genuine smile while making a cheeseburger. By rekindling that joy and orienting his work back towards a good end, Margot is granted reprieve.

The transformation of Chef Slowik is the first item to dwell on when comparing this movie to law school. In a chronological sense, the audience is confronted with someone who once loved cooking and giving people food. But, as time went on, talent-seeking leeches took

hold. Investors demanded changes in the food, critics analyzed his every pinch of salt, and foodies broke his meals down as if art were only the sum of its parts. If none of this sounds familiar, I am prepared to drop out. At law school, nearly all of us are beholden to our creditors. They determine what careers we envision and when we can start families. Standing in the way of that future are legal employers who tempt us with unending success, so long as we beat the people sitting next to us. And it is so easy for legal writing to drag you down into the formulaic and drab. I cannot help but imagine that everyone at this law school has a "cheeseburger photo," a moment when they were writing or arguing and overcome with a spiritual joy. If you're like me, those moments drove you to law school. But it is undeniable that there is something in this profession that comes for that joy if you are not on guard.

A hindrance to Chef Slowik's ability to find joy in cooking is certainly the guests that he now serves. Somehow, they vary from overanalyzing to under-analyzing every meal, while still converging on entitlement. While I have not yet had legal clients, I imagine that working with them can be similar.

Legal thinking and advocacy are special. We know that, yet it remains difficult to convey its uniqueness even to family and friends who are outside the profession. Now, a client may just want a job to be done or a result to be met while ignoring the skillset that you have tirelessly developed. Of course that is frustrating!

In the movie, this alienation results in the violent outburst that serves as the main plot point. Before the final roast, we see the violence begin with the suicide of sous-chef Jeremy. His motive, beyond introducing the third course, is that he will never be *great* like Chef Slowik. I do not make this comparison lightly. It is impossible to ignore, though, that depression, anxiety, and alcoholism run rampant throughout the legal field. If a contributing factor to these mental health problems is a feeling of inadequacy, I would not be surprised. When you have an institution with as much talent as this one, it can be hard to think that greatness is ever within reach.

The point to my tenuous comparison is that the alienation and violent responses are silly. It is silly to hate the people who criticize you when you know better, to think that being good but not great is a terminal ill-

ness, or to lose sight of the joy that brought you to law school before even graduating. But, like many silly things, they are easy to do. I personally would like to follow the path of Margot: Identify those moments of joy and pursue them within reason, stopping short of the artistic martyrdom of Chef Slowik. This is feasible because so many of the things we do here are really damn fun. That rush of adrenaline when you track the professor's reasoning on a cold call, the satisfaction of creating a great analogy in a memo, or the joy of telling a nerdy joke about a torts case to the only people on the planet who will understand. When combined with the art of advocating for a client who really needs your help, I think it is possible to make a delicious cheeseburger. Would 10 out of 10 recommend this movie—no deep thoughts are required to enjoy some good dark comedy.

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HOT BENCH



Karen Lai Painter
A new face at CAPS

Interviewed by Anna Bninski '23

Last week, the *Law Weekly* got to sit down with Karen Painter, who just became another face of the University's CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) at the Law School. After nine years at CAPS on Main Grounds, she'll now be splitting her time between the Law School and Darden. This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.

Welcome to the Law School, it's so nice to meet you! Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your practice?

I'm super excited to be here! I enjoy helping others with identity development and embracing their intersectional identities. I am looking forward to working with graduate professional students. In the main CAPS office, I worked with graduate, professional, and undergrad students for the past nine years but my role was a little bit different. I was one of their care manager clinicians,

primarily helping students in crisis and with accessing care while keeping a small therapy caseload. I wanted more opportunity to work with students in therapy, and now I get to practice in two spaces!

I'm happy to see folks blossom, seek different paths, and pursue their interests and life passions. Being a part of that life journey is very appealing to me. I myself was a first-generation student of immigrant parents so I reflect on that experience to circle back and help foster others with similar backgrounds to navigate the supports and guidance that I wished that I had. It's a privilege for me to be able to hold space for students who want to discover more of themselves and tap into their own potential. I want students to know that this is a safe and inclusive space. It's human to experience doubts and insecurities when applying to jobs, and being in competitive, high-pressured environments. Students have often found me naturally through friends and word of mouth, because I've worked with a lot of people who don't fit into a mold. I enjoy working with marginalized folks. For eight years, I focused on increasing access for trans health care with the Student Health Gender Affirming Care multidisciplinary team, and two years ago, I facilitated the LGBTQ+ support group which was a highlight for me.

Given that background, do you anticipate having relationships with groups at the Law School like Lambda or the First-Generation Professionals?

I'm open to it! I don't want

to insert myself without being invited, but certainly if there is a particular topic, a need, or if an outreach would be helpful. I would like the opportunity to be able to get to know some of the folk at the School of Law.

Let's take a step back from your professional role for a moment and get to know you a little bit! Where did you grow up, and how long have you been in Charlottesville?

I have lived in the Shenandoah Valley for my whole life. My parents were Chinese immigrants, who moved from NYC to the other side of Afton—they call it "the other side of the mountain!" I grew up around Mennonites in Stuarts Draft and it was a very different cultural experience, as I compared my upbringing apart from my city cousins. I remained because of my partner. Also, I love how accessible nature is and enjoy being in the mountains.

Outside of the Shenandoah Valley, what would you say are your favorite places?

I'm a big outdoors person. I enjoyed traveling once to Big Bend National Park. I love outdoor music, so I was really glad when festivals came back after they stopped for COVID. I like to unplug occasionally and go off grid and camp. I think maybe that's what's kept me in the Shenandoah Valley is the mountains—they're beautiful.

What would be your dream destination?

There's like an ice hotel that I want to visit in Canada!

Do you have family in the area?

I have a spouse, a fifteen-

year-old son, and a hound dog mutt, Jessie. She's a sixty-one-pound lap dog.

If you won the lottery, what would you do?

I'm a foodie, so I thought if I won, I would have breakfast and share it. My plan will be to invite a lot of friends and to have breakfast in different exotic destinations. Each person could select their own favorite location to eat and share breakfast together.

That sounds amazing!

I am a big breakfast eater so I think I can eat multiple breakfasts, no problem. No problem at all!

I love that! Do you have a breakfast place recommendation in Charlottesville or in the area?

Since college, I've been a faithful Waffle House person! I also love fancy pastries. In Charlottesville, I recommend Marie Bette.

Circling back a little bit to your CAPS role, is there anything that you particularly want students to know about CAPS?

That we are confidential and accessible for students! Dr. Kate Gibson and I can provide a private 1:1 consultation to see if individual therapy makes sense given the concern or need. The first appointment is by phone and we can also explore if there are other options, resources or needs that could be beneficial. There is a new email address that law students can use for scheduling: caps@virginia.edu. We work hard to get students seen quickly, often within the same week or so.

Additionally, CAPS partners with TimelyCare for free, con-

fidential telehealth, including psychiatry, which can be really helpful for keeping prescriptions up to date, which can be tough when you're a graduate or professional student moving around.

We end up talking a lot about confidentiality in our Professional Responsibility classes here. Can you say a little bit about confidentiality in your role?

It's very important! It's the cornerstone of honesty and trust. If people don't feel safe, they're not going to disclose anything. We do not communicate with academics, unless there is a written consent or permission. Without permission, we cannot even acknowledge that we're seeing someone, it's that private. Our medical record system is shared with Student Health and Wellness Center (our primary hub). If students have concerns, (e.g. trying to get into high clearance jobs, or something else), we are transparent about discussing these concerns, so there is greater comfort in therapy.

The exceptions for confidentiality in therapy are as follows: (1) if there is an immediate danger to yourself or someone else; (2) if a therapist suspects child, elder or dependent abuse or neglect; and (3) if the court subpoenas records or there is a court order. That's pretty rare!

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The Bar

continued from page 1

The Uniform Bar Exam and state-specific exams all want to know the same information: Where have you lived, worked, and committed crimes for the last ten years? You will also need your application for any law schools you have attended, which can be downloaded from the LSAC website. Your employment history needs to match between your bar and law school applications, and in general, you should have consistency between both documents. If you listed a C&F issue on your law school app, it needs to be disclosed to the Bar, and vice versa. If you have a C&F issue that you didn't disclose within your initial application to law school, you will need to file a correction with the school.

It is extremely, extremely rare to fail to be licensed because of a C&F issue. During the investigation that takes place after your application is submitted, if there are additional questions or documents needed, you will be contacted and have the chance to work through whatever issue may have come up.

The real problem with bar applications is that the C&F investigation requires you to be fingerprinted. This is a huge pain in the neck. There are generally two options: go through a company, or DIY. Identogo, a fingerprinting company contracted with the

state of Texas and other UBE jurisdictions, can electronically send your prints over to your investigator. They take care of everything; you just have to show up with your government issued ID. The locations available for this service are, of course, located at minimum two hours away. The closest office to Charlottesville that does fingerprinting is located in West Virginia, and they are only open on Tuesdays. Appointments book out weeks in advance, so it's worth getting to this soon. The second option is to go through mailing a paper fingerprint card to your jurisdiction through a company like MorphoTrust USA. After pre-enrolling, you have thirty days to get to a law enforcement agency to have your prints taken and then submit the card.

Applying to take a bar exam might be an anxiety hanging over your head, but it doesn't have to be. If you managed to fill out a law school application, you can do this easily. Below are the first filing deadlines for UBE states coming up soon.

Alabama, Texas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Rhode Island: Feb 1

Illinois: Feb 15

Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Utah: March 1

Washington: March 5

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Grocery

continued from page 2

with a Whole Foods or Fresh Market.⁸ I really like Wegmans. It's the only place I could buy bulk couscous (until Walmart started carrying it sometime during winter break). That said, it is not cheap. Beware the luxurious experience, for it may prove too enticing.

So, why should you care where you shop? Well, for one, as the fine folks over at financial aid have doubtless tried to tell you multiple times, the more money you owe now, the worse off you'll be later. Saving money on shopping makes sense, especially when the products are practically identical. Of course, that's not all there is to shopping. The experience is also worth something, but it's up to you to determine the monetary value. Market research demonstrates that where students shop heavily influences their decisions for the rest of their lives.⁹ So think carefully before you just pick a default option: It may be where you shop for the rest of your life. As for me, I'll keep splitting between the options above, while buying everything I can from Sam's Club and Costco.

⁸ For people from elsewhere: I don't know. I feel like you've probably been to a Wegmans before, though.

⁹ Source: my undergraduate Marketing degree, where we talked about this effect all the time.

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Feb Club
2023

Feb Club is an annual tradition to bring the Law School together and have some fun. Try your hand at the Iron Man Challenge by attending each event for at least 30 minutes and having one beverage.

DATE	DAY	THEME	Time	LOCATION [Subject to change]
2/2	Thursday	Trivia JD/MBA Mixer	7-10 PM	Three Notch'd
2/3	Friday	Y2K Kickoff	8:00 PM	2103 Morris
2/4	Saturday	These Gays Are Trying to Kill You!	8:00 PM	616 Rugby Road
2/5	Sunday	APALSA Presents: Year of the Rabbit	3:00 PM	616 Rugby Road
2/6	Monday	Bachelor Monday [RSVP REQUIRED: clc8fp@virginia.edu]	8:00 PM	Pav Apt 432
2/7	Tuesday	We're All Trying To Find the Guy Who Did This [RSVP REQUIRED: clc8fp@virginia.edu]	8:00 PM	717 Madison Ave
2/8	Wednesday	Durty South at Durty Nellys (hosted by Southeastern Wahoos)	8:00 PM	Durty Nellys
2/9	Thursday	Fed Soc Festivus: 90s edition	8:00 PM	723 Madison Ave
2/10	Friday	Après Ski	2:00 PM	312 Alderman
2/11	Saturday	Barristers Ball	8:00 PM	Boar's Head Inn
2/12	Sunday	Super Bowl Sunday Watch Party	6:00 PM	2011 Lewis Mountain Rd
2/13	Monday	Libel's DadClub	8:00 PM	2103 Morris
2/14	Tuesday	LPS Presents: Love Island	8:00 PM	1718 Rugby Road
2/15	Wednesday	OWLS Presents: A Cozy Night Around the Fire	8:30 PM	2010 Lewis Mountain Road
2/16	Thursday	In Memoriam: A Franzia Fiesta for Fred (hosted by wine society)	8:00 PM	2103 Morris Road
2/17	Friday	Va(LW) is for Lovers	8:00 PM	306 Alderman
2/18	Saturday	ACS & NLG Present: Workers of the World, Unite!	8:00 PM	1605 Brandywine Drive
2/19	Sunday	Lalo's Sunday Funday Con Carne Asada	2:00-5:00 PM	131 Cameron Lane, Apt 1
2/20	Monday	Our Champagne Problems Era [RSVP REQUIRED: clc8fp@virginia.edu]	8:00 PM	Pav Apt 517
2/21	Tuesday	Bathtub Gin [RSVP REQUIRED: wcg4up@virginia.edu]	8:00 PM	1814 Rugby Place
2/22	Wednesday	DURTY KLÜB	7:00 PM	Durty Nellys
2/23	Thursday	LSL Space Cowboy	8:00 PM	Boylan
2/24	Friday	BLSA Presents: Icon Party	8:00 PM	616 Rugby Road
2/25	Saturday	DAS KLÜB	8:00 PM	Rapture
2/26	Sunday	The Booty Barn Presents: Beer Pong Tourney	2:00 PM	2103 Morris
2/27	Monday	TBD (stay tuned!!)		
2/28	Tuesday	UVA Mens Basketball v. Clemson Watch Party	7:00 PM	Ralph Sampsons

Survivor Jury System vs. The American Jury System

Anne Reyna '23
Staff Writer



After forty-three seasons, *Survivor* is very much still alive and kicking. For those of you who have kept up with the popular reality show, please email me and let's hang out. For those of you maybe just now getting into the franchise because of some popular seasons being put on Netflix, wow are you in for a wild ride. And for those of you who are like, "Wow, they're still making that one deserted island reality show, and this random girl is still talking about it?": Yes, they are, and yes, I am. The show is just as spectacular as it was that fateful first airing in the medieval year of our ancestors, 2000.

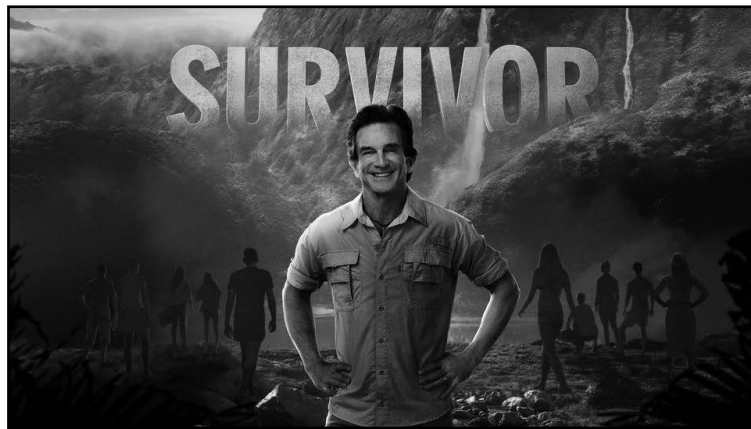
For those of you not familiar with the show, contestants, also known as "castaways," are split into different tribes and camps, usually in a tropical setting. As a tribe, the castaways must weather the elements, build shelter, make fire, and gather/hunt for food for the entirety of the game. While doing all of this to survive, the castaways must also compete in grueling physical challenges to win immunity powers and other luxury rewards ranging from yacht

parties to peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Throughout the course of the game, players are voted off by their fellow tribe members, one by one.

Now here's where things get really interesting. At about the halfway point, the voted-out players become the jury members, who ultimately go on to vote for and decide the winner of the game. That's right, the people you schemed and plotted against—and subsequently went through hell with while facing the true villain of the story, nature—will ultimately have your fate in their hands. And this is where I make my case, your honor. I've been silent too long, but the time has come for me to speak my, and soon to be everyone else's, truth. The *Survivor* jury system is in every way superior to the United States jury system, and it's about time we talk about it.

When the U.S. legal system gaslights us into believing we have rights, such as the right to a trial made up of a "jury of our peers," what they really mean is a jury made up of a bunch of randos¹ you've never seen or heard of before. *Survivor*,

¹ Random individuals you have had no previous interactions with, e.g., "Who invited the randos?"



Pictured: This is what justice looks like. Credit: TV Insider.

on the other hand, guarantees us this right. The *Survivor* jury members know the other contestants better than most of you know your next-door neighbor. They already know what it's like to live with you, to break bread with you, and to fail and succeed with you, and they have a pretty good idea of your integrity and trustworthiness. At the end of the game, when the final tribal council begins, they are not just hearing about your case for the first time. They experienced in real time your actions and decision making. They are your true peers and equals in the game.

My next favorite part of the *Survivor* jury system is that it eliminates any unnecessary intermediaries, which would be referred to as "lawyers" in the U.S. system. The jury members get

to question the remaining castaways at the final tribal council head-on. There are no gimmicks, no ploys, and no tactics from other actors. At the end of the game, you are forced to turn and face your peers that you have wronged and to take their questions. And if they don't like your answers? Too bad. Jail, immediately.² The final contestants also get to hear what the jury is really thinking and get to respond or change their arguments in real time based on their reactions. The jury is not some black box like we see in the U.S. but is instead composed of active trial participants.

Next, every final contestant is compelled to testify for themselves. Everyone knows that if you don't take

² In this case, jail is just not winning a million dollars.

the stand at your own trial in the U.S. system, you are hiding something. Whatever technical reason you have for not testifying, the jury and your God care not. The jury and final contestants can even interrupt each other and engage in heated debates. And for those of you like, "Isn't this just total anarchy?": No, of course not. There is a host who plays judge, and his name is Jeff. Everybody loves Jeff, so it's fine.

Lastly, from the moment you enter the game, you know you're on trial with your peers, and anything you do or say can and will be used against you. Unfortunately, in the U.S. legal system, they don't inform you that this is a rule until you have already been arrested and they finally read you your *Miranda* rights. At least in *Survivor*, you know exactly what you're getting yourself into from the jump.

Now, am I suggesting that every time a crime is committed, the U.S. should gather twelve other people and ship them off to a deserted island with the defendant? Yes. Thank you for your time.

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