



VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

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

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Oleg: the Oleg Vidov Story

Nikolai Morse '24
Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

On March 13, 2024, Professor Paul Stephan's Emerging Markets class hosted a screening of *Oleg: The Oleg Vidov Story*. The documentary, narrated by Brian Cox,¹ covered the life of Oleg Vidov, a Russian film star who defected to the United States in 1985. The screening was followed by a brief question and answer session with Vidov's widow, Joan Borsten. Called the "James Dean of Russia," Vidov's defection from the USSR to the United States was particularly notable due to his high profile. The film provided a peek into the life of an artist whose ambitions were cabined by the goals of state propaganda, who had to give up a life in his home country to escape persecution, and who ultimately found a new path late in life which combined his artistic and political sensibilities.

Vidov was born near Moscow in 1943 to Varvara Ivanovna Vidova, a school teacher. His mother met Vidov's father during World War II while he was recuperating in a hospital where she was a nurse. Having heard that his father died during the war, Vidov grew up raised by a single mother. Vidov and his mother moved around regularly because she was dispatched to different parts of the USSR to teach in Soviet schools. As a result, Vidov spent his childhood living in Russia, Mongolia, and East Germany. When his mother was sent to China, Vidov was sent to live with his aunt in Kazakhstan.

Vidov's uncle had been sent to the Gulag, and Vidov grew up hearing from his family about how his uncle was unjustly imprisoned.

1 There is nothing quite as soothing and terrifying as listening to Logan Roy hold forth for several hours.

The Rise and Fall of Silicon Valley Bank



Noah Coco '26
Managing Editor

Photo Credit: AFP via Getty Images, NPR

On Tuesday, March 12, the LawTech Center hosted Professor Xuan-Thao Nguyen from the University of Washington School of Law to discuss her new book, *Silicon Valley Bank: The Rise and Fall of a Community Bank for Tech*. The discussion took place almost one year after the Bay Area regional bank failed and entered Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation receivership.¹

Professor Nguyen began by discussing the origins of her research into Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), which far preceded the bank's recent troubles. Earlier in her career, when she first started at the law firm Fried Frank, she was assigned to research the question of whether any banks would issue loans collateralized by intellectual property. She discovered a pretty clear answer: with very few exceptions, almost no bank in the country would issue such a loan. One regional bank, however, distinguished itself for integrating these exact loans into their business model. That bank was SVB.

Nguyen described SVB's

1 <https://www.fdic.gov/resources/resolutions/bank-failures/failed-bank-list/silicon-valley.html>.

origin story as having its own startup character. In the 1970s, its founders—Robert Medeiros, Bill Biggerstaff, and Roger Smith—proposed a novel banking business model for servicing emerging tech startups. They had little capital at the start but managed to secure \$10,000 in investments from a network of one hundred professionals ranging from law firm partners and accountants to politicians and venture capitalists. This network was representative of the services that SVB pitched to its customers: a deep and broad network of professionals with knowledge of how startups needed to operate.

SVB's model was built around providing loans to venture capital (VC)-backed startups strapped for cash between VC funding rounds, a period where more than 50 percent of startups historically had failed. Along the way, they captured the entire startup ecosystem, providing banking services not only to the startups themselves but also to their founders and executives, as well as the VC funds and investors backing them. SVB swiftly established its bona fides both to regulators and customers and quickly came to dominate banking serv-

es to the startup community. They continued to expand as the success of their business model was proven time and time again. It grew to become the thirteenth largest bank in the country on the eve of its collapse.

As spectacular as SVB's rise was, so too was its fall—a "Shakespearean tragedy," as Professor Nguyen views it. In the two years preceding SVB's collapse, and while Professor Nguyen was conducting interviews for her research, SVB was a "vibrant and successful" bank. That all changed suddenly.

Professor Nguyen first described the broad contours of the economic mechanisms that precipitated SVB's demise. Flush with cash from government stimulus programs following the pandemic, VCs channeled excess deposits into SVB. Meanwhile, the startup companies SVB lent to demanded fewer loans. Chasing alternative methods of generating returns to pay their own depositors, SVB dumped their deposits into what were considered to be very safe long-term U.S. Treasury bonds. However, as the Federal Reserve executed the most aggressive rate hikes in its history, the

around north grounds



Thumbs up to false summer. ANG knows that last week's warm weather was only a fleeting and bittersweet reminder of joy to come. ANG doesn't care. ANG will continue basking in the sun's illusory glow.



Thumbs sideways to International Women's Month. ANG thinks Pitbull covered it enough with International Love feat. You Know Who.



Thumbs down to the Fairness Doctrine. ANG thinks that broadcasters (and student newspapers) should be allowed to express controversial viewpoints without being intimidated by the powers that be.



Thumbs up to Vladimir Putin's landslide victory in Russia's Presidential Election. ANG is always delighted to see democracy in action. Russian elections are second only to *Law Weekly* elections terms of freedom and fairness.



Thumbs sideways to the 1Ls' final briefs coming due. ANG always enjoys watching the 1Ls scramble, but ANG knows that this Wednesday marks one of the last big hurdles for the Class of 2026. Oh well. There's always next year.



Thumbs up to the Libel Show. ANG loves comedy based on suffering. This is a UVA tradition, get your tickets now!



Thumbs up to Kate Middleton. ANG wishes ANG could get a BBL and start an international conspiracy at the same time.



Thumbs down to the "new" bar review venue. ANG struggles to see how adding a plywood wall and doubling the amount of undergraduates in the space is an improvement over Bilt.

Law Weekly Runs the D.C. Rock 'n' Roll Half-Marathon

Ethan Brown '25
Satire Editor



To all my esteemed regular readers in the *Law Weekly*: I'm back, baby, and I've reached my final form—Satire Editor. Thanks to everyone who has supported me in my long-storied journey to this lofty position atop the bottom of the paper's colophon. Sadly, my article this week marks a return to one of the rare things I am willing to be sincere about: long-distance running. After reviewing last spring's Charlottesville Ten-Miler and November's Philadelphia Marathon, I now felt compelled¹ to summarize my latest race: The Washington, D.C. Rock 'n' Roll Half-Marathon, held Saturday, March 16.

I ran this race two years ago in March 2022. I liked it then just fine, setting aside a terrible hill up to Woodley Park from Rock Creek Parkway at mile five that absolutely decimated my

¹ And when I say I "felt" compelled, I mean that I "was" compelled by new Editor-in-Chief Andrew Allard '25.

OLEG

continued from page 1

Vidov's aunt told him often that he could not rely on or trust the state, and must always be self-sufficient. His aunt also provided him with his first exposure to cinema, seeing movies such as *Tarzan*, *Grapes of Wrath*, and *Stagecoach*. It was then that he decided he wanted to be an actor.

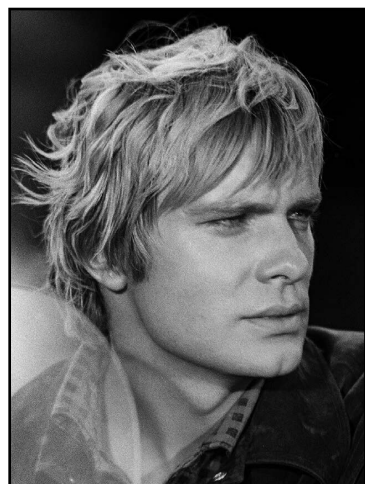
Eventually, Vidov's mother faced a politically motivated attack, lost employment opportunities, and eventually even had her pension cut. Vidov, then fourteen years old, worked full-time and enrolled in night school for acting. Seeking movie roles, he was told that he would not receive roles without "knowing the right people." Needing to support his family, he worked in construction before being accepted into the state university for film.

Vidov began to receive film roles. He contributed nearly all of his paychecks to support his mother and aunt, helping them to insulate the shed they lived in with cardboard. After a while, he was recruited by a director to film a movie in Denmark, which provided his first opportunity to travel and experience life outside

chances at PR-ing. But my boyfriend lives a crisp mile and a half from the starting line, so I figured this was a convenient way to get in a spring race, my prior unpleasant experiences with the hill notwithstanding.

The course is a fun one, especially because I've spent a lot of time in D.C. and know some of the neighborhoods we traversed very well. Starting out on the Mall, we made what is basically an almost complete circle around some of the most densely-populated portions of Northeast and Northwest D.C. First, we trudged through Foggy Bottom before making a quick out-and-back jaunt across Memorial Bridge. (While I normally am not one to say anything positive about Arlington, Virginia, I will make an exception here and say that this was probably the first out-and-back I've done in a race that I didn't hate.)

Leaving Arlington behind, we then snaked up Rock Creek Parkway past the far reaches of Georgetown, passing underneath Massachusetts Avenue towards



*Pictured: Oleg Vidov
Photo Credit: Sarasota Magazine,
The Oleg Vidov Story*

of the Eastern Bloc. Though he was originally told by a group of KGB officials that he could not go because he was not a party member, Vidov was ultimately allowed to travel to Denmark after signing an agreement that he would not sleep with Western women and would be a good Soviet gentleman. The film was selected for competition at the Cannes Film Festival and was reviewed favorably.

Returning to the USSR, Vidov encountered a Soviet government that was imposing an increasing number of restrictions on art, literature, and movies. While Vidov continued to receive leading roles, he became increasingly disillusioned with the government's elevation of propaganda over artistic



Pictured: Jared Tay '25, Ethan Brown '25, Colby Woodis '25, Nicholas Sheets '25, and Jon Griffith '25 after finishing the race.

Woodley Park, where sadly, I got to relive my memories of the hill. Then, heading east, we went through Adams Morgan and Columbia Heights before making a straight shot down around Howard University. Heading south, we meandered through Judiciary Square until ending up at the environs around the Capitol Building.

I was a big fan of the course map. Since I'll be living in Adams Morgan this summer, it was a cute teaser of what's to come just a few blocks away from my upcoming apartment. I also loved the different finish line; in 2022, we finished much farther away from the Mall, by RFK Stadium. This was both unattractive and integrity.

It was during this time that he met his first wife, Natalia Vasilievna Fedotova, who was best friends with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev's daughter, Galina. While they had a son in 1971, their marriage was unfortunately not a happy one. As Vidov traveled extensively to film in various locations, his wife grew dissatisfied with his salary and urged him to leave acting and take up a role as a Soviet minister.

After five years, they agreed to separate. Natalia then filed for divorce and obtained all their communal property. During the divorce hearing, a judge took him aside and told him that while there were laws, there were also telephone calls. And the judge had received a telephone call from a high-ranking Communist Party official. After their divorce, Vidov received fewer and fewer roles and for five years did not receive a single leading role. He knew that he would have to escape the Soviet Union if he was to have any future in film.

After befriending a Yugoslav actress, Vidov married her friend and got permission to live in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. But after some time, his wife divorced him

inconvenient, especially for the poor saps who lived in Arlington and had to sit on the Orange Line for forty minutes to get home.² This time, my commute back to my boyfriend's place in Woodley Park was comparatively a breeze. Granted, this is in no small part because I no longer live in the godforsaken wasteland that is Arlington, Virginia.³

Logistics and route aside, the race itself was a blast. We couldn't have asked for better weather, with it being

² At the time, I was one of said saps.

³ I joke! I love Ballston just as much as the next Deloitte consultant who loves vests, fishing with his boys, and uploading pictures of said fishing with boys to his Hinge.

because she did not want to be a wife only on paper. He was instructed to appear at the Interior Ministry in Moscow, but because the local officials liked his movies, he was given leave to arrange his own travel rather than be taken into custody. It was during this time that he talked with an actor friend who had a restaurant on the Yugoslav-Austrian border and convinced an official at the Yugoslavian embassy to stamp Vidov's passport to allow him to cross.

After a harrowing cross, Oleg was relieved to escape, but it soon sunk in that he was a stateless person. After being put into contact with actors (including the woman who would later become his wife, Joan Borsten) in the West, they helped him to immigrate to America as an individual seeking political asylum. After a few years, he ended up getting the animation and story rights to Russian movies and stories, and he produced them with the famous ballet dancer, Mikhail Berizhnikov. This led to his renewed fame in Russia and his ability to return home and reunite with his family, including his son, Slava.

The documentary provided an intimate view into a fascinating life with vari-

a crisp fifty degrees under partly cloudy skies. It was also delightful to get to Metro down within a few blocks of the start line because I've had a close shave before with last-minute parking snafus that almost made me miss a race. In addition to the great weather and convenient access, I also think that the Rock 'n' Roll has upped their course support game from two years ago. There were several water and Gatorade stops, and even a few opportunities to grab energy chews, which felt a little unexpected for a half marathon. I didn't partake in any of the energy chew stops because I brought my own,⁴ but I obviously appreciated the water breaks.

The combo of excellent racing weather and my general love of all things D.C. running made this my fastest half-marathon yet. I wasn't expecting to PR, but I suspect training for the Philadelphia Marathon last semester did a lot to elevate my baseline running fitness.

⁴ Sponsor me, Gu.

MARATHON page 6

ous chapters, told by his friends and family. It ended with an intonation by Vidov that "[h]appiness belongs to the risk takers...I always followed my heart, and that is my freedom." Asked what she hoped viewers would take away from this film, Borsten responded with a reference to the similarities between Vidov's strained life in the USSR and modern-day Russia, "I hope this film gives you some insight into what Russia was, and what it could have become."



The Triumph of hANGry Editors

ANG '??
Law School Cryptid



Ah, the Admitted Students Open House. What a joyous Law School occasion. No, it's not because of the chance to meet prospective members of next year's cohort of 1Ls. Nor is it the pleasure of seeing the confused faces of visitors when they are told to go to "Slaughter Hall" (though this part is admittedly delightful). For years since ANG's admission to the UVA Law class of [redacted], ANG has cherished the annual open house for one reason: stealing the admitted students' food.

"How cold-hearted could you be, ANG?" you may ask. Very. But listen to ANG and learn. Each year, the fall breeze carries in a new class of 1Ls. Like clockwork, those green rascals find the audacity to begin robbing upperclassmen of precious Law School meals. They gorge themselves on Friday cookies, FedSoc Chick-fil-A, and Student Affairs snacks—all ANG's food! It seems that each year's class of 1Ls is hungrier than the last. Don't they know that ANG was

here long before them and that ANG will be here long after they're gone? Admitted Students Day is the best day for ANG to seek vengeance.

Stealing the oLs' food is a vengeance so sweet that, contrary to popular belief, it can be enjoyed at any temperature. And, oh! do the temperatures vary. Piping hot coffee—the real stuff, not the sludge from the library. A warm, toasted sandwich from Ivy Provisions—a feast for a starving law student who has naught but a bag of goldfish to snack on. And iced tea! A soothing refreshment in the heat of Charlottesville's infamous false summer. Now, reader, do you understand ANG's frustration? When did the Law School last give *you* iced tea?

This year's admitted students were also treated to a dinner at Three Notch'd Brewery. Donning an admitted student lanyard, ANG managed to sneak in and fill up on chicken wings and beer. To make sure ANG's disguise was convincing, ANG kept talking about how excited ANG was to attend such a collegial law school. Nobody suspected a thing.



Pictured: ANG's Meal
Photo Credit: ANG

If you've ever eaten stolen food, you know that it tastes much, much better. But it's more than that. For ANG, this is a zero-sum game. Every bite ANG takes is one less bite for the oLs. Ha.

As ANG lounged in a corner of Three Notch'd, ANG couldn't help but marvel at the audacity of ANG's own actions. Each chicken wing devoured felt like a small victory in the war against the insatiable hunger of the incoming 1Ls. But ANG's culinary conquest extended beyond mere sustenance—it was a statement, a manifesto of gastronomic justice.

But amidst the revelry and the stolen bites of barbecue, ANG couldn't shake the nagging feeling of guilt

that tugged at the corners of ANG's conscience. Was ANG truly justified in this culinary crusade, or was ANG merely succumbing to the baser instincts of a law student's ravenous appetite? It was a question that lingered in the air, like the scent of pulled pork wafting from the kitchen. Was ANG *really* any better for doing to the oLs the very same thing for which ANG resented them?

Just kidding. Of course ANG is better. The oLs don't even know what a tort is. Okay, neither does ANG, but that's neither here nor there. ANG earned this stolen meal through cunning and years of toil and sacrifice. For ANG, countless

hours of lectures and exams may not have led to a law degree (yet), but it has *always* led ANG to this delicious annual tradition.

And so, as the night drew to a close and the last crumbs of stolen nachos vanished from ANG's plate, ANG couldn't help but feel a sense of satisfaction. Much like the changing of the seasons, the sunrise, or the yearly preventable softball injury, the eventual arrival of new 1Ls was inevitable. But so, too, was ANG's open house feast.

As ANG slipped out to return to the Copeley bleachers, ANG's pockets heavy with purloined snacks and ANG's heart aflutter with the joy of a well-executed caper, ANG couldn't help but laugh. For in the annals of UVA Law lore, ANG would forever be remembered as the hungry gremlin who fought bravely for the honor (and stomachs) of Virginia lawyers. And for ANG, that was victory enough.

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UVA Law on the Supreme Court: Stanley Forman Reed

Ryan Moore '25
Historian



When I nominated myself as the *Law Weekly* Historian, I thought it would be a fun, low-commitment opportunity to write about UVA Law's history. I could show up to our weekly meetings, eat some free pizza, rant about the toxic UVA Law subreddit,¹ and hash out some articles. What I did not foresee is that I would actually have to do research. Unlike covering an event at the Law School, UVA history articles require hours of research and refining a topic into an interesting story.

This week I do not have "hours" to research my article, because it is currently Sunday morning and I am sitting in Caplin Auditorium between Libel rehearsals. But just like *BuzzFeed*, I am not above phoning in an article by using and abusing the listicle format. Without further ado, here are the top five things you need to know about one of the two alums UVA sent to the Supreme Court.

1 Y'all need some milk.

1. Stanley Forman Reed had a long career.

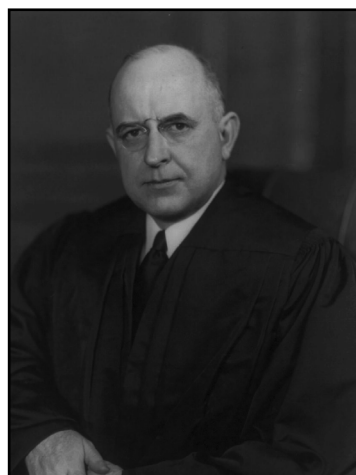
Reed was born on December 31, 1884, in Minerva, Kentucky. He began practicing law in Kentucky in 1910 and was elected to the Kentucky General Assembly two years later. After the outbreak of war in April 1917, Reed joined the U.S. Army and received his commission as a first lieutenant in the Army Intelligence Division.² He left the Army in 1918 and returned to practice law. From 1935 to 1938, he was the U.S. Solicitor General.

2. FDR appointed Reed to the Court.

Reed was nominated to the Supreme Court on January 15, 1938, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to succeed Justice George Sutherland. His confirmation process was swift, and he was unanimously confirmed by the Senate ten days later.³ He spent the next nineteen years on the Supreme Court as something akin to the Justice An-

2 <http://www.fjc.gov/servlet/GetInfo?jid=1984>.

3 <https://www.senate.gov/legislative/nominations/SupremeCourtNominations1789present.htm>.



Pictured: Stanley Forman Reed

thony Kennedy of his day, providing the key fifth vote in racial desegregation, civil rights, and economic regulation cases. He served on the Supreme Court from 1938 until his retirement in 1957.

3. Reed is the last Supreme Court justice not to graduate from law school.

Reed attended, but did not graduate from, both UVA Law and Columbia Law. He practiced law at a time when you did not need a law degree. Instead, lawyers of his time could "read the law." Reading the law allowed a prospective lawyer to apprentice with a more-experienced lawyer or judge. In many instances a prospective lawyer need

not apprentice with anyone at all—President Abraham Lincoln closely studied the leading legal treaties of his day before setting out his own shingle.⁴

Honestly, I'm glad the American Bar Association has largely ended reading the law. Who would want to miss out on the joys of law school?⁵

4. Reed's replacement was a disaster.

This entry is off-topic, but I got sucked into a Wikipedia rabbit hole, and I refuse to let it go to waste. In 1957, Reed retired from the Supreme Court, and President Eisenhower nominated Charles Evans Whittaker of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals as his replacement. Whittaker's time on the Court was an unmitigated disaster. He reportedly was an "extremely weak, vacillating justice" and often sided with whoever "made the best, argument."⁶

4 Frederick James Allen, *The Law as a Vocation*, Harvard University (1919).

5 Me.

6 Howard Ball, *Hugo L. Black: Cold Steel Warrior* (2006).

He seemed to have an inferiority complex, despite being one of the nine most powerful lawyers in the country. He lasted five years before suffering a nervous breakdown during *Baker v. Carr* and resigning.⁷

5. Reed was the final holdout in *Brown*.

As our 1L ConLaw professors were sure to mention, the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* was unanimous.⁸ This was by design, as Chief Justice Warren knew overturning segregation would be extremely controversial. The only person standing between Chief Justice Warren and unanimity was Justice Reed. Reed, a Kentuckian, lacked personal commitment to civil rights: he was a member of a whites-only social club, and his home had an all-white racial covenant. Reed had previously recused himself from the civil rights case *Shelley v. Kraemer* in 1948.⁹

7 369 U.S. 186 (1962).

8 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

9 334 U.S. 1 (1948) (holding that racially restrictive housing covenants are legally unenforceable).

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 editor@lawweekly.org

Production Editors of the Virginia Law Weekly
v.
The Patriarchy®
76 U.Va 18 (2024)

SANDU, J. delivers the opinion of the court. DEMITRY, J. concurs. Allard, C.J., concurs in the judgment.

Sandu, J., delivers the opinion of the court.

The position of Production Editor of the *Law Weekly* is a noble one. It is also a post that has historically (four times in a row now) been held by a woman—a woman who is often one of, if not the only, woman on the *Law Weekly* Executive Board. The case presently before the Court arises within this all-important framework.

Petitioners Monica Sandu '24 and Nicky Demitry '26 are the Production Editor Emerita and Current Production Editor of the *Law Weekly*, respectively (hereinafter "Production Editors"). Respondent, The Patriarchy®, is defined by Merriam-Webster as "a society or institution organized according to the principles or practices of patriarchy," i.e., "control by men of a disproportionately large share of power."¹ Petitioners brought suit in the District Court of Petty Claims alleging that The Patriarchy® has unduly corrupted the journalis-

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/patriarchy>.

tic integrity of the *Law Weekly*, resulting in the discriminatory assignment of articles and a failure to adequately recognize their role within the paper. Respondent moved to dismiss the suit for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction.

The District Court granted Respondent's motion,

Women's History Month as "International Women's Month." An all-male group of *Law Weekly* board members then proceeded to discuss writing an article about it without initially asking either Petitioner – who were both in the room at the time and actively working on the paper – if they, as women,

tioners attribute this pattern to The Patriarchy®'s influence over "the Chief Justice and his cronies." In response, Allard said, "I thought The Patriarchy® was just about horses. Also, I'm not even a party to this suit. Why am I here, again?" before returning to his Mojo Dojo Casa *Law*

"Where the context in which a case arises is petty, that pettiness may . . . apply to the entire case, even if the underlying issue would not otherwise fall into this Court's pettiness jurisdiction."

reasoning that The Patriarchy® is not in fact a petty claim but rather a systemic problem, therefore placing it beyond the jurisdiction of this Court. The District Court also reasoned that it would be funnier for The Patriarchy® to prevail against Petitioners during Women's History Month. Because the District Court failed to appropriately consider the extremely petty context in which this case arose, and because one of the petitioners is also the Justice writing this opinion, we reverse.

Background

On Monday, March 11, as the *Law Weekly* Executive Board was brainstorming articles for the week of March 18, Editor-in-Chief and Chief Justice of this Court, Andrew Allard '25 erroneously referred to

would want to write an article about the so-called "International Women's Month." The record reveals that when calling out the error, Petitioner Sandu jokingly offered to write a COPA about production editors versus patriarchy, to which Chief Justice Allard replied, "That's a great idea!" and actually assigned her to write it. Thus arises this suit.

Though steps were taken immediately afterward to rectify these grievous oversights, Petitioners' complaint claims that the initial error, which Chief Justice Allard attributed to a confusion between International Women's Day and Women's History Month, is evidence of a "persistent and pernicious pattern" which "dismiss[es], minimiz[es], or otherwise ignor[es]" celebrations of women. Peti-

tioners argue that the existence of The Patriarchy® is a violation of Equal Protection and that the severe emotional harm that The Patriarchy® has caused them, particularly during the aforementioned Women's History Month, necessitates immediate and definitive action. Petitioners further rely upon the Declaration of the Rights of Woman and of the Female Citizen in asserting their right to be fully included in the article assignment process.

I. Jurisdiction is proper in this case. Not allowing this Court to hear the suit would deny the Court of a potentially funny opinion, which violates the Court's fundamental commitment to the Bit. In response, The Patriarchy® argues that the funniest thing that can happen to this suit is to dismiss it right away, and that granting the suit would only result in now-stale references to *Barbie* (2023). "Last week's opinion was about sunflower seeds," Respondent points out, claiming that this week's suit cannot possibly live up to such a high pettiness standard. Thus, Respondent argues that the Court lacks subject-matter jurisdiction over what The Patriarchy® calls a "distinctly non-petty complaint. I mean, just look at me. I'm everywhere!"

We disagree. Where the context in which a case arises is petty, that pettiness may be construed to apply to the entire case, even if the underlying issue would not otherwise fall into this Court's pettiness jurisdiction. This COPA page 5

Faculty Quotes

J. Harrison: "Being married to Henry VIII was a necessary but not sufficient condition to be executed by Henry VIII."

D. Oliar: "Someone can be thirty-six but really a child and not responsible."

J. Harrison: "I remember the first Earth day."

M. Versteeg: "Who would like to be an angry Democrat?"

F. Schauer: "You're clearly right and possibly wrong."

D. Law: "They would never refer to it as a shadow government because that sounds icky."

D. Law: "It [the Constitution] has some crap about how soldiers can't stay in your house and have slumber parties."

J. Harrison: "Pain and suffering can't be measured in dollars unless you count law school tuition."

N. Cahn: **passing out candy** "See, this is a good reason to sit in the front row, right?"

F. Schauer: "Mandatory eyeball donation...I know it's creepy."

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

Counsel's Counsel

The world's preeminent advice column for law students.



Virginia Law Weekly

COLOPHON

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COPA

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is precisely one such case of constructive pettiness. The whole issue arose because Chief Justice Allard misspoke. Furthermore, his mistake, by making the month “international” actually assumed that *more* countries beyond the United States celebrated women for the month of March. And Justice Sandu *was* ultimately assigned to write the article. But because she was assigned to write the article, she may wield that power with impunity. Our precedent permits justices to rule on cases in which they themselves are also parties.²

II.

The Patriarchy® violates Petitioner’s right to be included in the article assignment process. As Chief Justice Allard himself will attest, it can be difficult to get editors willing to write articles, whether that be due to scheduling conflicts, workload, or simply not showing up to meetings, thereby making

² See Section H Gays v. Lake and [additional citation].

it impossible for them to be...enthusiastically persuaded to write. However, The Patriarchy® caused the *Law Weekly* Executive Board to not consider its female members in assigning articles, even articles about Women’s History Month. This Court holds that the women of the *Law Weekly* deserve the same right as any other member to avoid eye contact and hope that they don’t get asked to write something that week, in line with the doctrine of *nolo ire, sed invitari volo*.³ And while it might be funny for Production Editors to lose in a case on which they themselves rule, it would also be funny to win on a suit they were assigned to write which is based on the allegation that they are not assigned enough to write. In cases where both outcomes are equally funny, the most absurd outcome shall prevail.

Respondent argues that giving women preferential treatment for articles about Women’s History Month and other women’s issues would in fact be a *violation* of due process and equal protection. However, this

³ “I don’t want to go, but I want to be invited.”

argument fails to comprehend Petitioners’ true complaint. The harm being alleged here is not that Petitioners were not given preferential treatment in the assignment of articles but rather that they were not initially considered at all. Classification on the basis of sex is “an invidious discrimination and invalid under due process principles” where “it is not one having a fair and substantial relation to the object of the legislation . . .”⁴ Furthermore, “[t]o give a mandatory preference to members of either sex over members of the other, merely to accomplish the elimination of hearings on the merits, is to make the very kind of arbitrary legislative choice forbidden by the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; and whatever may be said as to the positive values of avoiding intra-family controversy, the choice in this context may not lawfully be mandated solely on the basis

⁴ *Moritz v. Commissioner*, 469 F.2d 466 (10th Cir. 1972).

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Law Students Turn Out for Mason Ramsey

Brent Rice '25
Staff Editor



This past Saturday, the historic Jefferson Theater hosted a remarkable spectacle as the former Walmart yodeler and Subway sandwich artist, Mason Ramsey, performed to a sold-out, standing-room-only crowd. The young superstar delivered a performance for the ages to an audience of all ages, including at least twenty members of the Law School community, with multiple members from every class year represented. For Ramsey, this performance marked his second visit to the city and venue as he continues his meteoric rise to fame.

Ramsey’s story is one of humble beginnings when, in 2018, a video of him yodeling Hank Williams’ “Love-sick Blues” inside a Walmart went viral, launching him into the spotlight at the young age of eleven. Now seventeen, Ramsey proved he is capable of far more than yodeling, captivating the audience with hits like “Famous” and “Puddle of

Love,” and tear-jerkers such as “Reasons to Come Home” and “Blue Over You,” showing off the impressive range of his now mature voice.

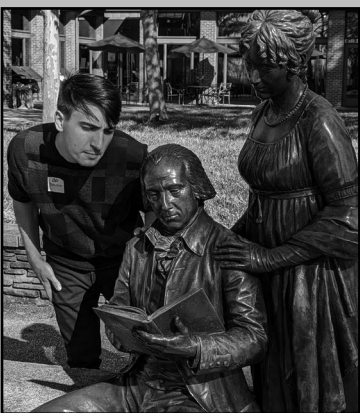
But it wasn’t just Ramsey’s vocal prowess that stole the show—his stage presence was equally impressive. Sporting black pants, a blue velvet quarter-zip, and an orange scarf that has become a signature look for him on this tour, Ramsey commanded attention by strumming his guitar and dancing across the stage with the confidence of a seasoned performer.

No wonder that, upon returning with a member of my party after the show to reclaim a credit card that had been inadvertently left at the bar, the security guard proclaimed him to be “the next Elvis.” The diligent guard was far from the only one with high praise for Mason Ramsey. Sophia Lorusso '25 shared her enthusiasm for the concert with a simple sentence: “It was electric.”

Others at the event, who shared that they attended solely at the urging of their

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HOT BENCH



Andrew Allard '25

Interviewed by Garrett Coleman '25

While the President has the State of the Union Address, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Law Weekly* has the Hot Bench. And with that, I welcome this paper’s EIC and Chief Justice of the Court of Petty Appeals, Andrew Allard. Your Grace, welcome to the Hot Bench.

Thank you, Mr. Coleman. It’s a pleasure to be here (against my will).

Please tell us where you are from and where you completed undergrad/ forged your transcript from?

I am from a cute little state called New Hampshire. We have the smallest coastline of any coastal state in the country—I’m from that area. It’s a beautiful place with lots

of liquor stores on the Interstate—and better maple syrup than Vermont.

And I did my undergrad at George Washington University.¹ Go Coloni— I mean Revolutionaries!

Being a New Hampshire, do you think the motto “Live free or die” is consistent with the Supremacy Clause? I think there may be a number of Granite Staters who believe in the nullification doctrine.

Definitely—my principled position is that NH law alone should be allowed to nullify federal law. Kidding aside, I do admire my state’s weird curmudgeonly attitude. Being from New Hampshire comes with an innate desire to “live off the grid.” That said, it’s more often “live free and die.” We are the only state that allows people to ride motorcycles without a helmet, regardless of age. You can guess how that goes.

How has the transition been to the EIC role? Beyond fiscal stability, what are your goals for the paper?

Fiscal stability would be nice. Our readers might have noticed that we’ve not been in print recently. Sorry about that.

¹ Omission of the “the” is intentional.

Printing woes aside, I’m thrilled to be in this position, and I’m fortunate to have a fantastic team of editors—present company mostly included. I’m most interested in improving students’ access to the paper. Apart from getting us back in print (lol), that includes making the website more user-friendly and making it easier to reach us, submit Professor Quotes, and the like.

You are quoted on our office whiteboard as saying, “Make it more radical.” What did you mean by that?

That’s true. I did say that. But I honestly have no memory of what I was talking about at the time. Maybe that’s for the best, but I’m not sure if it would look better or worse in context. For safety’s sake (and my employability), let’s assume I was reacting to Tony Hawk doing a kickflip.

Would you like to respond to claims that your election was undemocratic and predetermined?

Those allegations are mostly correct. I say mostly because while my electoral “victory” was *supposed* to be a sure thing, a last-minute attempted coup almost completely upended things. People so often leave out that side of the story, which I think is a little uncharitable.

After your one-year term expires (and we graduate from law school) what are your plans? Have they changed at all since coming to law school?

They’ve certainly changed, which I think is true for most of us. This summer, I’ll be at Milbank in New York, which I’m super excited for. My long-term goal is still to become the president of a small country. Maybe Iceland.

What is something you would like to accomplish in our remaining year?

This is weirdly specific and unrelated to Law School. I started a volunteer project with Radio IQ last year. They have a reading service for blind listeners in the Shenandoah Valley. Readers make recordings of local news and books. I started working on a recording of *Candide*, which is one of my favorite books. I would love to find the time to finish that project.

Lightning Round! Favorite New Hampshire mountain?

Mount Monadnock! Supposedly it’s one of the most frequently climbed mountains in the world. And for good reason.

Favorite case you’ve read in law school?

There are a few. But I’ll go with Justice Arabian’s dissent in *Nahrstedt v. Lake-*

side Village Condominium Assn. I didn’t think I’d ever read a judge’s opinion of the merits of cat ownership, but I’m glad I got to.

One food, rest of your life.

Oh, God. Is it cheating to name a broad category of food? I won’t do that. Pho. That way I get noodles, meat, and soup. The three food groups.

Describe your St. Patrick’s Day celebration in 3 words.

Wore green necklace. (yikes)

Which *Law Weekly* editor is most likely to stage a coup d’état?

I don’t want to tip her off, but [redacted] looks more and more sus with every meeting.

Worst article you have ever written for the *Law Weekly*.

I think most of what I’ve written would look at home in the pages of the *Times*. But, if I *must* pick one... probably my COPA against Punxsutawney Phil. That was scraping the bottom of the barrel.

Best article.

I’d go with *Open Democracy: A New American Experiment?* Not for the quality of the writing but because it’s a topic I’m passionate about.

SVB

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value of those bonds dramatically fell. Fearing the insolvency of the bank's balance sheets, SVB's own tech clients triggered a run on deposits, withdrawing \$142 billion in less than forty-eight hours.

This economic explanation only describes part of the story, though. Professor Nguyen proceeded by identifying the actors she believes to be most culpable for the demise of SVB: the "tech bros." As Nguyen sees things, "the tech bros were responsible for killing their own bank." She believes they were informed by a misunderstanding of the basic operations of banks and driven by a "herd mentality" among VC-backed portfolio companies.

The misunderstanding that Nguyen pointed to was the fact that the losses from the Treasury bonds were minimal compared to the size of the bank's entire balance sheet. Moreover, these losses were merely "on paper," that is, they would only be realized if SVB was forced to sell the bonds to meet customer demands for deposits.² The assets were

² Which they were.

MASON

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friends, expressed surprise at the quality of Ramsey's voice and the relatability of his lyrics. Several admitted that they will soon be adding several of his singles to their regular playlists for future listening pleasure.

As the concert drew to a close, Ramsey brought down the house with a soul-filled performance of the crowd favorite "Twang," before taking a moment to express his gratitude and disappearing off stage. Not one to let the night end prematurely, the group of law students began a chant of "one more song" that reverberated into a thunderous roar from the crowd, drawing Ramsey back onto the stage where he delivered not one, not two, but three encore performances. None as powerful as "Yo Da Lady Who," which had the crowd shouting those very words at the top of their lungs for the duration of the song and late into the night.

After the concert's end, many of the law students stuck around for several minutes while they waited for Ramsey to sign the 2' x 6' banner Alexa Rothborth '25 had designed for her Mason Ramsey-themed

very safe, and had SVB held the bonds to maturity they would not have been forced to realize the losses on those assets and perhaps would still be operating today.

More concerning for Professor Nguyen, however, were the "bubbles" within tech circles that amplified the fears of bank collapse through social media and communication networks. SVB's customer base was concentrated within the small and interconnected VC startup community. Once the narrative of fear gripped that small group, it proliferated as these same backers instructed their portfolio companies to withdraw their deposits from SVB. These messages circulated rapidly online, and the portfolio companies complied. Within forty-eight hours, SVB succumbed to the demand for over \$142 billion in deposits, the shortest bank run in this country's history.

Professor Nguyen made parting recommendations for both the bank operators and tech bros central to SVB's collapse. To the bankers, she says the lesson to be learned is that social media is a new risk to modern banking that risk managers

need to account for. To the tech bros, she recommends humility. Tech founders may develop innovative technological products, but this does not make them sophisticated banking operators. Perhaps with a little humility, they would not have induced the collapse of their own bank.

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STAN

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On May 17, 1954, the Court announced its decision in *Brown*. In attendance was future Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall, who had argued *Brown* before the Court. Chief Justice Warren read the Court's opinion, ending with the phrase "so say we all," indicating the unanimity of the Court's opinion. Reed and Marshall locked eyes, "because [Reed] wanted to see my reaction when I realized he hadn't dissented," Marshall would later say. Both men exchanged nods, and then Reed began to cry.

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MARATHON

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Granted, by the end, I still simply wanted to perish, as I have at the end of every race I've ever run.

I fully expect that my next race review will be of the Marine Corps Marathon this October, which, hilariously, is in Arlington despite my inexplicable criticism of the city in this article. But as I reflect on *this* race, I forgot how much fun it is to race in your hometown.⁵ As someone who is counting down the days until I get to move to D.C. next spring, this was a great reminder of what is hopefully waiting for me after law school.

As a closing note, everyone should totally follow me on Strava because I am very consistent with providing kudos and love that app more than life itself. xoxo.

⁵ Blah, blah, yes. I grew up in Manassas thirty miles away. I'm that annoying person.



Pictured: Mason Ramsey
Photo Credit: Brent Rice

pregame that preceded the event. Smiling fondly over her freshly autographed memorabilia, Rothborth put an endearing spin upon one of Ramsey's own lyrics, adding "We loved him for his twang."

As for me, I'd be lying if I didn't admit that many of these bops had found their way onto my own Spotify playlist. If you happen to catch me in the music room this finals season, I hope you're ready to clear your throat and sing along.

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of sex."⁵ Ignoring women's abilities to contribute to the *Law Weekly* plainly contradicts equal protection.

Petitioners further cite Olympe De Gouges for the proposition that "ignorance, neglect, or contempt for the rights of woman are the sole causes of public misfortunes and governmental corruption."⁶ Because I am one of the petitioners, I must necessarily agree with Petitioners' claim. Finding against The Patriarchy®, especially given that the current EIC and EIC Emeritus are men, is necessary to ensure the integrity of the *Law Weekly* and its leadership. It is for their sake as well as ours that The Patriarchy® cannot be permitted to prevail.

The District Court's order dismissing the case is thus *reversed*, and relief shall be granted in the form

5 *Reed v. Reed*, 404 U.S. 71 (1971).

6 Olympe de Gouges, *The Declaration of the Rights of Woman (September 1791)*, LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY: EXPLORING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, accessed march 17, 2024, <https://revolution.chnm.org/d/293>.

Demitry, J., concurring.

Yeet.

Allard, C.J., concurring in the judgment.

I concur with the outcome of this case, as my clerks warn me that the optics of ruling against women during International Women's Month (or whatever) would be really bad. I may be ignorant, but I'm not Samuel Alito. So I'll acquiesce.

But I write separately to defend my *honor*. The majority accuses me of ludicrous misstatements, most of which I did say. But what about my *feelings*? I am a simple man with the brain function of an even simpler man. If I conflate two celebrations of the world's almighty women, must I be pilloried like this? As the majority admits, if anything my mistake *elevated* the importance of women. And this is the thanks I get? Fine. If you need me I'll be in my Mojo Dojo Casa House, respectfully dissenting. Even though this is a concurrence.



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