



# VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

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

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

Volume 77, Number 1

## A Letter from Two Refugees in Legal Limbo

Nur Kabir & Khair Ullah  
Guest Writers  
Introduction by Andrew Allard  
Editor-in-Chief

*Editor's note: Thank you to Nur Kabir and Khair Ullah for submitting this guest piece and Ann Bayliss for coordinating its publication. Mr. Kabir and Mr. Ullah's letter does not reflect the views of the Virginia Law Weekly or its editors.*

In the spring of last year, the *Law Weekly* received an unexpected guest piece from across the globe. Ann Bayliss, a member of the Charlottesville community with ties to the Law School, contacted us with an intriguing story. For three years, she has corresponded with two Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh, Nur Kabir and Khair Ullah. Bayliss suggested publishing their story to increase awareness among future Virginia lawyers of the human rights abuses faced by the Rohingya.

Many readers have likely read about the ongoing persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar, particularly after news broke of renewed attacks on Rohingya fleeing Myanmar this summer. But students may be unfamiliar—as we were—with the complexities of international law that contribute to the Rohingyas' uncertain legal status.

We shared the letter with Professor Camilo Sánchez, the director of the Law School's International Human Rights Clinic, who noted UVA students' "rich history" of applying their legal skills to human rights issues. "I would recommend students check out the work of the Burmese Democratic Futures Working Group. This group brings together UVA faculty, Burmese democratic advocates, and leadership from various non-profits to explore the history and current state of non-violent democratic movements in

## A Welcome from Dean Kendrick



Source: UVAToday

Leslie Kendrick  
Dean of the Law School

Welcome to the new school year! You are the very first students I get to have as Dean, and I am honored to take on this role with you. As I have been thinking about what good wishes to send you for your year, I have found myself recalling the things that remain constant, from my time as a student to yours.

Every fall, when I have lunch with my Torts students, I ask what drew them to UVA. A few days ago, I asked some new 1Ls the same thing. What I hear every year is exactly what my classmates and I would have said more than 20 years ago.

They say that this seemed like a place they could live as well as learn. That an alum had raved about it. That current students—you—were genuinely kind and welcoming. What's uncanny is that every year, new students accurately describe this place when they have just arrived, even before they have taken their first class.

How can this be? It is an ongoing marvel to me. The only explanation I have

is that our students and alumni authentically convey what UVA is about, through act and deed. Admitted students are not dumb (obviously). If a law school tried to manufacture a culture, they would not buy it. They pay attention to what *you* are saying and doing. And what they see in you cannot be faked.

What we have here is special, but it has its challenges. I'll mention one, which I talked about with our 1Ls at orientation.

At some point in your life, you have probably had neighbors. With neighbors, you might tread carefully: you might steer clear of hot-button topics and stick to the weather. Because these are folks you have to live with, possibly for a long time.

Now imagine you had lots of neighbors. About 1,000. And not only did you live in close proximity, but you also worked at the same place. Also, you socialized together constantly. Also, you were in the same book club, meeting for hours each week and covering the most sensitive topics of the day. Also, there were often visitors to the neighbor-

hood—high-profile and polarizing visitors—whom some neighbors loved and some hated. Also, even if you moved, you would still see these neighbors for the rest of your life, professionally and socially.

Who in the real world lives like that? Nobody! That's a lot of pressure to put on one set of relationships! But that is you and your classmates in law school. You are each other's residential, intellectual, social, extracurricular, and professional compatriots, all at the same time.

Never again are you likely to do so many things with the same people with the same openness. Later, you will exercise more control over whom you live and socialize with. You will choose how much to mix your social and professional lives. Your workplace will be mission-focused and unlikely to involve watercooler discussions of everyone's most strongly held beliefs. In other words, your life will have more boundaries. And as Robert Frost said, "Good fences make good neighbors."

## around north grounds



Thumbs up to our softball league starting first thing in September. ANG years for glory on the diamond.



Thumbs up to Tim Walz calling Turkey a vegetarian option. ANG loves protein.



Thumbs up to UVA Law alumnus, Judge Amit Mehta '97, writing a landmark opinion in the Google antitrust case. While ANG does not believe the Sherman Act is constitutional, ANG loves seeing alumni in high places.



Thumbs sideways to Sarah Baker '04. We are proud to see her confirmed for her spot at Department of Transportation but annoyed at the weekend we spent shredding all her old *Law Weekly* articles.



Thumbs down to the imminent beginning of parking enforcement. Like any good law student, ANG loves anarchy and hates paying for things.



Thumbs sideways to the new traffic circle on Hydraulic. ANG enjoys this new racetrack-style intersection, but ANG is getting dizzy from trying to find the exit.



Thumbs up to the annual Student Org Fair. ANG has never and will never join a student org. Why would ANG want to do more work? But ANG loves to show up for the free swag, popsicles, and candy.



Thumbs sideways to Charlottesville adopting ranked-choice voting. ANG prefers the brutal, hopeless simplicity of first-past-the-post. But no matter—ANG will vote twice regardless.



Thumbs up to the Fashion Square Mall development plan. ANG is glad to see the community band together to save Belk, Spencer's, and that one store that sells Amazon returns.



# Some Advice for 1Ls

Garrett Coleman '25  
Executive Editor



Another year, another opportunity for me to preach to 1Ls reading this paper. As a 2L, I had to write the annual 1L advice column, but I chose to be painfully abstract. While enjoyable to read, it left little in the way of practical guidance. So, I have returned to fix that and offer a list of easy to digest tips for 1Ls who want to start their legal careers on the right foot.

**1) Use Friday or Saturday morning as a time to review the previous week.** I know . . . reviewing is the most tedious form of studying. But it is also the most helpful. These weeks will fly by, and many of your classes will jump between topics. What an end-of-the-week review session offers is a chance to solidify those ephemeral concepts into real understanding. I suggest incorporating your best class notes into your reading notes and adjusting each for any discrepancies or redundancies.

**2) Take a law school [s]abbath.** At least in the beginning of the school year, you should have the time on either Saturday or Sunday to completely disconnect from your legal education. Ride a bike, play pickleball, or read about the Roman Empire. Drink some fluids if Bar Review was the night before. The important thing is that you give yourself some time to rest and enjoy the things and people you loved before law school. While things feel busy, 99 percent of you have the time to do this with proper discipline during the week.

**3) Start the 1L summer job search early but lightly.** Do not stress about it, since there will be very few opportunities before Christmas break. However, if you have some down time in October or early November, I recommend brainstorming some ideas and lightly drafting your application documents so you can launch as quickly as possible. The Office of Private Practice will have more concrete suggestions. You won't want to push this until after finals, when your brain is mushy.

**4) Prioritize health.** Eating well, exercising, and sleeping improve your mental performance. There is no way of getting around that. And, again barring unforeseen personal issues, 1Ls should have the time to work on those three pillars. During my 1L year, I tried to cut corners on some of these. But life, including my academic performance, would always improve when I got them back in check.

**5) Do the reading before class.** You think it would be simple. But life gets in the way, and you will be tempted to push it off. The problem with doctrinal classes, though, is that topics compound on one another. So your skipped days compound into serious gaps in understanding. When outline season comes around, and you see a two week gap in your reading notes, you will hate yourself. Try to avoid this by doing the reading before class.

**6) Ask upperclassmen questions.** We don't do much! And we love giving advice, as you can tell from this article. For the

big events of this year, like exams or journal tryouts, talking to a 2 or 3L over coffee can be very helpful. If anything, we can calm you down, since your imagination will make these things scarier than they are.

**7) Don't be a[n] [insert preferred expletive].** First impressions die hard. And the people around you are more than classmates—they are also future colleagues, whose referrals you will need. Not to mention, they are people deserving of respect. Share notes; invite others to study groups; refrain from preaching in class, etc.

**8) Go to office hours.** I am personally terrible at this. And that is mostly because I worry about having enough questions to ask. When I don't understand something, I usually can't formulate a question in the first place. In my experience, though, professors are more than happy to help if you just point at a topic and grunt. Okay, maybe more than that, but an acceptable question could be: "I have not understood personal jurisdiction since *Pennoyer*."

Could you please briefly explain what the court is trying to do at this step?" And even if you somehow manage to ask an irksome question, we have blind grading!

**9) Play a full roster on your section softball team.** Don't be that team that restricts the batting lineup to the nine most athletic players.

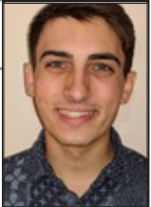
**10) Have fun!** Hopefully, you came to law school because you have some interest in reading, writing, speaking, government, politics, or ethics. Law school is a great outlet for those types of people. Many of the cases have fun stories—like when a single plank blew up an entire ship. Being called on in class will test your speaking abilities under high stress. And everything you study will have some impact on the lives of ordinary people. Enjoy the opportunity to spend three years thinking with a group of brilliant people.

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## Welcome from the *Law Weekly* Editorial Board

Andrew Allard '25  
Editor-in-Chief



For the past few days, I've noticed an excruciating decrease in "snooze" presses each morning and an even more excruciating increase in parking tickets. This can only mean one thing: The fall semester has begun.

I have been feeling the usual rush of new academic year emotions—excitement, anxiousness, determination, and gratitude. But this year, a few new feelings have been thrown into the mix. I find myself amazed that two years have passed since I began my journey here at the Law School and saddened to know that it will soon come to an end. Where did the time go?

If you are a new student here, you have undoubtedly received no shortage of unsolicited advice. Well, here's mine: Find your creative outlet. It doesn't *have* to be writing for the *Law Weekly*, but you could do worse! In all seriousness, acts of self-expression—baking, writing, painting, you name it—can go a long way toward easing the stresses of legal education.

I am proud to be finishing my law school journey serving as the Editor-in-Chief of this paper. From my first meeting as a bright-eyed 1L editor, working for the *Law Weekly* has been a sustaining source of joy.

But what would a captain be without his crew? I am fortunate to work with a kindhearted and humorous staff of intrepid reporters. They are so kind, in fact, that I am hoping *perhaps* they will not mutiny against me in the spring, as is tradition at the paper. We'll see.

While you're sure to meet us sooner or later, scribbling notes at a Law School event near you, we thought you might like to know who's behind the raving and rambling writings that haunt the halls. So without further ado, meet your *Law Weekly* E-Board!



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**Editor-in-Chief Andrew Allard** is a 3L from Seacoast, New Hampshire. After graduating from George Washington University in 2019, he worked in Northern Virginia researching Chinese technology policy. Andrew enjoys playing frisbee, brewing coffee, and making croissants, even if his pale in comparison to the ones at Cou Cou Rachou.



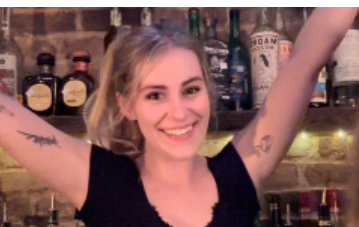
**Executive Editor Garrett Coleman** is a 3L who was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. He graduated from Boston College in 2022, with a degree in Economics and Philosophy. Beyond the *Law Weekly*, Garrett enjoys playing softball and golf. His 3LOL activity will be learning how to ride a horse.



**Managing Editor Noah Coco '26** is a 2L from Tipton, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2019 before working for several years in Washington, DC for a financial technology company. Outside of the *Law Weekly*, Noah is often seen around grounds walking his friendly black pitbull, Lilah, or heading out to one of the local wineries (most likely King Family Vineyards).



**Features Editor Ashanti Jones '26** is a 2L from Ashland, Virginia. She graduated from the College of William & Mary with a B.A. in Public Policy and Government. Ashanti enjoys long walks on the beach, Korean BBQ, and almost every competition reality TV show.



**Production Editor Nicky Demitry '26** is a 2L and a military kid with no hometown. She has a Master's degree in "something humanities" (quote from father) and has worked in the coffee industry, as an LSAT tutor, and as a bartender before law school. You can still find her occasionally bartending on Saturday nights at the Alley Light downtown and at random other bars. She enjoys rainy days, soccer, and a worryingly codependent relationship with her aging dog, who she now home-cooks most meals for like a tradwife.



# The Definitive *Law Weekly* Restaurant List



Ashanti Jones '26 & Nicky Demitry '26  
Features Editor      Production Editor



Welcome back 2Ls and 3Ls, and welcome home 1Ls! As everyone settles in (or back) to life in Charlottesville, the staff here at *Virginia Law Weekly* wanted to provide the community with some vital information to start the year off right: where to get good food. The places that appear on this list are sourced from your fellow law students, and include spots for lunch, dinner, before Bar Review, after Bar Review, and everything else in between.



Source: Lampo Neapolitan Pizzeria

**Lampo**  
Location: 205 Monticello Road  
Price: \$-\$\$  
Go for: solid, affordable Italian spot, but most importantly the pizza

**Ace Biscuit and Barbecue**  
Location: 600 Concord Ave  
Price: \$\$  
Go for: of course the barbecue, but the chicken and waffles is a huge fan favorite

**Farm Bell Kitchen**  
Location: 1209 West Main Street  
Price: \$\$  
Go for: really tasty brunch, banger cocktails too

**Tavola**  
Location: 826 Hinton

Avenue  
Price: \$\$  
Go for: another Italian spot, pricier than Lampo but amazing pasta options

**Vu Noodles**  
Location: 111 East Water  
Price: \$-\$\$  
Go for: great Vietnamese food with vegan and veggie options

**Alley Light**  
Location: 108 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW  
Price: \$\$  
Go for: sharable French small plates, and super cute cocktails made by one of our very own editors, Nicky <3

**Revolutionary Soup**  
Location: 108 2nd Street SW  
Price: \$-\$\$  
Go for: obviously the soups, but also quality salads and grain bowls

**Monsoon Siam**  
Location: 113 W Market Street  
Price: \$-\$\$  
Go for: Thai if eating in

**Thai Cuisine and Noodle House**  
Location: 2005 Commonwealth Drive



Source: Guajiros  
Price: \$-\$\$\$  
Go for: Thai if taking to go

**Mas**  
Location: 904 Monticello Road  
Price: \$\$  
Go for: tapas and top notch sangria

**Ten Sushi**  
Location: 120 East Main Street  
Price: \$-\$\$\$  
Go for: good sushi but an even better atmosphere

**Jack Brown**  
Location: 109 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE  
Price: \$-\$\$\$  
Go for: really great smash burgers

**Splendoras Gelato**  
Location: 2050 Bond Street  
Price:

Go for: great gelato (duh), but also great vegan cupcakes (only available on Friday and Saturday though)

**Guajiros**  
Location: 114 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Price:  
Go for: really tasty Cuban food, plus a fun “after dark” menu

**The Local**  
Location: 824 Hinton Avenue  
Price: \$-\$\$  
Go for: very diverse menu, great option for an “I’m up for anything” kinda night

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## The Great Debate: Summer Covid or No Summer Covid?



Ryan Moore '25  
Law Weekly Historian

**Point: Summer Covid sucks.**

In 1997, the Scottish director Jim Gillespie released the horror-slasher film *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. Starring Jennifer Love Hewitt, Sarah Michelle Gellar, and a young Johnny Galecki (of *Big Bang Theory* fame), a group of teens accidentally run over a pedestrian, leaving him for dead after dumping his body in the ocean.<sup>1</sup>

For many returning 3Ls who spent their summer at a firm, everyone knows what you did last summer: free lunches, free drinks, and maybe some legal

<sup>1</sup> Remember this because it becomes relevant later.

“work.” For some KJDs, last summer was their first taste of “work” experience. For older, wiser law students, this summer was a much needed return to the workforce and a reminder of a happier time. But I do not want to hear about the legal issues you worked on, I do not want to hear about how many free lunches you had, and I definitely do not want to hear about how you “totally messed up in front of this partner” and thought you would get “no offered.”

I am not here to write about the summer associate experience. Instead, I take this opportunity to sympathize with the pedestrian in *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. Much like the pedestrian,<sup>2</sup> I also was abandoned.

While my classmates spent their post-summer job period traveling the world and lounging on the beach, I spent it sick with my third bout of Covid. I had to lie there, coughing and suffering on my couch, while all my friends posted Instagram photos

<sup>2</sup> Spoiler alert: he lives!

of them living it up in Hawaii, Albania, Ireland, and even Florida. If I hear one more 3L’s story about how great their beach vacation was, I will seek an injunction through *Law Weekly*’s Court of Petty Appeals. You have been warned.



Andrew Allard '25  
Editor-in-Chief

**Counterpoint: Boy did I have a great summer!**

Being a summer associate was a breeze. And what better city than New York to embrace brat summer? Not to mention the *paychecks*! While I refuse to identify myself as an older law student, I am certainly a wiser one. So, much like Ryan, I thoroughly enjoyed my brief return to the workforce—and my bank

account’s even briefer return to a positive balance.

Early in the summer, I also got hit with Covid... and it was great! I worked from home for a couple days and hardly missed any of the big law winning and dining experience. Sure, I had a bad fever and headaches, but who doesn’t enjoy working from home in their PJs at market rate? Eventually, I healed up and returned to the office. I sure hope I didn’t spread Covid to anyone else... what are the CDC guidelines again?

Anyway, after recovering, my summer just kept getting better! I wrapped up my internship in New York and headed home to New Hampshire for a little beach vacation. There was swimming, fishing, grilling—I can’t remember another time I’ve felt so relaxed! The worst thing I can say is that I got a little sunburnt one afternoon. That healed up after a couple days, though.

Most amazing of all was the hot streak of perfect beach weather. I’d never seen anything like it. Sun-

ny, warm, and the cooling mist of the ocean... It was as if August was calling for me to stay at the beach just... one... more... day...

Man, I sure am glad I got Covid out of the way early on in the summer. It would have been a real bummer to suffer indoors and miss out on all that summer fun!

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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 [editor@lawweekly.org](mailto:editor@lawweekly.org)

*The Funding Cases*  
77 U.Va 1 (2024)

Once again, the *Virginia Law Weekly* is short on money. In an effort to silence the inconvenient pangs of a free press, the University of Virginia has cut the organization’s funding. While others eat and drink on the school’s dime, this Fourth Estate spends its money on entertaining and informing the student body. They even create a surplus by leaving leftover pizzas on the Brown Hall tables—which are acquired through an independent advertising agreement. Being the litigious bunch they are, the *Law Weekly* managing board sued the school in a flurry of cases to secure adequate funds for the year’s operations. This Court finds them successful in every effort, and orders several million dollars be sent their way.

*In re Staircase*

**Coleman, J., delivers the opinion of the court.**

“One entered the city like a god; one scuttles in now like a rat.” When he uttered those words, historian and Yale professor Vincent Scully, Jr. had New York’s Penn Station in mind. But his sentiment is equally applicable to the Slaughter staircase of old. Under cover of summer break, the

administration laid waste to the elegant and stately passage at the front of Slaughter Hall. In its place is nothing but a Stalinesque wall. As soon as the *Law Weekly* managing board learned of this change, the paper filed suit under Virginia’s landmark preservation laws and related Charlottesville ordinances. For this unlawful demolition of an historical landmark, the Court finds the University liable. It remands to the lower courts to determine the full value of punitive damages owed to the *Law Weekly*.

*OGI Antitrust Litigation*

**Coleman, J., delivers the opinion of the court.**

The *Law Weekly* filed suit under the Sherman Act against the University for the actions of its wholly owned subsidiary, the Office of Private Practice. The paper has successfully alleged a § 2 violation for the office’s distribution of OGI bids. Our first step is defining the relevant market. We characterize it as OGI bids, in which OPP controls

100 percent of the market. While the University argues that the true relevant market must include interviews obtained outside the OGI process, we disagree. Pre-OGI interviews are far more valuable and convenient, and are thus not substitutes for the budget OGI bids. The second step is determining whether there was anticompetitive conduct to further expand or maintain that monopoly. This anticompetitive conduct is self-evident. Reminiscent of a Soviet command economy, students are allotted a set number of bids and must submit their documents through a centralized clearinghouse. This Court now instructs the lower court to estimate damages, and would like to emphasize the fact that they are to be trebled.

*Allard v. Student Affairs*

**Allard, C.J., delivers the opinion of the court.**

This action follows this court’s ruling in *CRONCH v. Conagra Brands*, 76 U.Va 17 (2024) (denying

motion to dismiss alimentary rights claim that alleged defendant’s sunflower seeds were too salty). Plaintiff-Chief Justice Andrew Allard declined to join CRONCH’s suit, opting to bring this claim against Student Affairs, the distributor of the salty snacks at issue in *Conagra Brands*. C. J. Allard claims to have suffered a dramatic increase in blood pressure as a result of consuming sunflower seeds he received from Student Affairs. Relying on our preliminary finding that the snack was unreasonably salty, C. J. Allard seeks to recover damages from Student Affairs for the medical costs incurred due to his increased blood pressure. Notwithstanding the lack of expert testimony supporting a causal connection between C. J. Allard’s condition and his consumption of Student Affairs’ snacks—or for that matter, the lack of any medical evidence whatsoever—we agree with Plaintiff-Chief Justice Allard. We’re pretty sure we gave notice to Student Affairs, so they’re in default now. Or something.

*Students v. That Library Door that Locks in the Evening*

**Allard, C.J., delivers the opinion of the court.**


On behalf of all law students, the *Law Weekly* brought a claim for tortious interference against the library door that locks at night. You know the one. The action may proceed under the Court’s *in rem* jurisdiction. We agree with the *Law Weekly*’s novel theory that the locking mechanism unreasonably interferes with students’ study time by requiring them to walk *all the way* to the main entrance when approaching the library from the northern half of Brown Hall. Calculating the student body’s aggregated lost time from additional walking multiplied by a reasonable market rate for study time, we find the damages at around \$100 trillion. Because damages are limited by recently adopted tort reform legislation, we will reduce the award to \$99 trillion.

*ScoCo Shareholder Derivative Litigation*

**Coleman, J., delivers the opinion of the court.**

As shareholders in ScoCo

COPA page 6



*Th. Jefferson*

Noah Coco '26  
Managing Editor

## Virginia Law Weekly

### COLOPHON

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

## Faculty Quotes

**J. Harrison:** “Cheap beer has its place in the world. I know. I went to UVA.”

**F. Schauer:** “*Loving v. Virginia* could have been about a mixed foursome on a golf course. They still would have found it discriminatory.”

**P. Ahdout:** “Notice how careful I have to be to not turn up in the *Virginia Law Weekly*.”

**N. Cahn:** “I have to grade you. I’m sorry.”

**Student:** “Are you a tortured poet?”

**I. Kalish:** “I don’t know if I’m a poet...”

**J. Mahoney:** “The 8th Amendment is having kind of a moment right now.”

**M. Versteeg:** “Who’s like ‘I’m a Biden supporter!’ Nobody, right?”

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

## INTERESTED IN JOINING THE LAW WEEKLY?

Meetings Every Monday at 5:30pm in SL 278

New Editions Every Wednesday

Make Friends, Enemies, and Memories to Last a Lifetime



ROHINGYA

continued from page 1  
Myanmar.”<sup>1</sup>

The letter from Mr. Kabir and Mr. Ullah follows:

Law students of the University of Virginia, we are two Myanmar nationals from the Rohingya community writing to you from Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh.

We were just setting out on our careers after passing the final exam necessary to matriculate into higher education when a genocide occurred on August 2017 in Myanmar, and we write because, although our lives were spared, we remain in legal limbo seven years later.

Thanks to the intervention of Bangladesh and the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, we are relatively well off compared to refugees within Myanmar and elsewhere. We have even survived uncertain legal situations before. To explain how we got here, it is necessary to know a little bit about how the problem facing the Bur-

mese Rohingya began.

Evidence from European explorers, missionaries, and trading companies from the 1600s to the early 1800s documents the presence of Muslims in Arakan, predating British colonization in 1824. One of our elders, Muhemmed Hussain, explains: “It is said in Arakan, the Rakhine and the Rohingya were brothers. Two races from the same place. One believes in Buddhism and one believes in Islam. We Rohingya were here since long before 1823. Our fathers, Grandfather [sic], great grandfathers, children, and grandchildren were all born here.”

From 1824 to 1937, Burma was a “province” of British India. Burma formally obtained independence on January 4, 1948. The 1947 Burmese Constitution stated that people who resided in Burma on its independence day were citizens. So, to determine whether we are citizens or not, it is needed to start from 1947, not hundreds of years ago. That is the right way. As Elder Aman Ullah points out, “We need to understand that we all belonged to Burma since the day of independence.”

On March 2, 1962, General Ne Win seized power

in a military coup. And in 1964, he excluded the Rohingya language from Burmese Broadcasting Service (BBC). Ten years later, Ne Win’s military government started to draft a new constitution. It legalized discriminatory policy against Rohingya but was not recognized by the international community and was known as “black law.” However, it was declared the national constitution in 1982. What the military government did to us with the pen harmed us more than their physical attacks.<sup>2</sup>

By 2014, we were obliged to say that we were Bengali instead of Rohingya in the national census. No Rohingya Muslim candidates could run for parliament. In 2017, our unclear legal status legitimized attacks against us as a group. Neighbors turned their backs as the military burned our homes and killed anyone who did not leave.

By the grace of God and the goodwill of the Bangladeshi government, we found shelter where we now live. International groups allied with the United Nations have helped us build temporary shelters, set up

<sup>2</sup> For more details, please visit Ekkhaale.org.



Source: Khair Ullah. Pictured: Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh.

schools and houses of worship, and work, or rather, volunteer.

One of us volunteered not just for a month, a summer, or a year, but for two years—even longer than the international teams, who got paid. Once again, unclear legal status holds us back. Without the rights given to other refugees, we cannot even have bank accounts.

Although Bangladesh saved us, it is not a party to the 1951 Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees and has not yet signed it. Convention-signing countries agree to “give sympathetic consideration to assimilating the rights of all refugees with regard to wage-earning employment.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> CPRSR Article 17.

Granting us refugee status would allow us to repay our host country for all that they have done. Of course, we also dream of reclaiming our Myanmar citizenship. You lawyers of the future can surely understand our plight. Would any of you one day help us win the opportunity to work and live as citizens again?

A proverb of ours is “Zou Háilè Háiyóm, Hímmót No Háráiyóm,” which means, “Even if we have to eat powdered rice, we will never lose our guts.” We will persevere through thick and thin.

Thank you for sending hope in our direction, as we wish you good luck with the fall semester!

# HOT BENCH



Jon Griffith '25

Interviewed by Andrew Allard '25

Hi Jon! Thanks for joining me for this year’s inaugural Hot Bench. For our readers that haven’t had the pleasure of meeting you yet, tell us where you’re from, where you went for undergrad, and why you came to law school?

Thanks for having me! I was born and raised in The Woodlands, Texas; it is a suburb north of Houston. My parents met in law school at the University of Texas at Austin, which means I was raised by two attorneys. But I didn’t immediately follow in my par-

ents’ footsteps. First, I pursued petroleum engineering at UT followed by four years in the oil field. Within about two years of working as a petroleum engineer, I realized the path I was walking didn’t lead where I wanted it to go. The job I had at the time, and most jobs in the industry, did not challenge me to think critically or be creative; rather, I was confronted with copy-and-paste tasks and checklists that needed to be followed. My choice to pursue the law was a choice to pursue a challenge, and my time at UVA has left me with zero regrets.

That’s wonderful—hopefully we can keep you at zero regrets by the time the interview is over. I understand that you’re rather enthusiastic about legal practice in Texas and perhaps Texas in general... Why should UVA Law students pursue a career in Texas?

If you will allow a shameless plug, Lone Star Lawyers is an organization that answers this question at their event “Why Texas” on Thursday, August 29th at 7 p.m. (right after the Student Activity Fair) in Pur-

cell Reading Room. We talk about all the pros of the Texas Market and how to land a 1L summer associateship.

Alright 1Ls, don’t miss it! On a related note, do you have any wisdom to impart on starting the 1L journey?

If you are facing a problem, attempt to solve it on your own, then take a moment to formulate a thorough question (sometimes this process answers the question), then ask someone for help. There are so many incredible people at this Law School (student affairs, OPP, student orgs) who love to help. There is no reason for anyone to struggle on their own. And you don’t have to confine yourself to the Law School. If you aren’t sure how to apply to a specific firm, find an alumnus at that firm and send them an email. They would love to help you.

Speaking of firm work, do you have any memorable experiences from this summer?

Absolutely. I experienced something that very few attorneys have seen in their entire career. While attending a court hearing, the court stenographer decided

that she had had enough. She not only quit her job in the middle of the proceedings, but she yelled at the judge for not enunciating his words sufficiently. Then, when the attorney politely asked if she could take down the judge’s final orders for the record, because otherwise the entire proceeding was essentially a waste, she accused both attorneys and the judge of harassment. It was wild.

Wow, that is... certainly memorable! Are you taking any courses this semester that you’re particularly excited about?

I am very excited to work with Professor Ware as an LRW fellow. I remember how stressful writing a brief can be, and I hope I can make the process a little easier. I am also excited for “Taking Effective Depositions.” I enjoy classes that focus on real-world skills. After attending my first deposition over the summer, I look forward to seeing what went into preparing for that deposition.

Do you have any bucket list items you plan to check off now that you’re (hopefully) 3LOLing?

I have a fixed set of goals for this final year of academic opportunity to ensure that I am well positioned to succeed in my career. I want to visit more wineries, play more softball/poker/board games, enjoy the weather, and relax.

You sound very responsible! I wish I could relate. How would you describe your taste in music?

I would describe my taste in music as exceptional. Others would describe it as “the gayest thing about him.” Harsh, but pretty accurate—I am very excited about attending a Gracie Abrams concert this semester.

Do you have any tips for novice poker players on how to improve their game?

Watch a YouTube video explaining the basics and then sit next to someone better than you who will whisper sweet nothings advice as you play.

Hm... this sounds strangely familiar. OK, lightning round! Favorite Charlotte



DEAN'S WELCOME

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So go easy on yourselves—and on each other. Consider all the relationships you have with your classmates, and remember that they are your neighbors, for now and for life. When a tree falls in your yard, it's nice to have a neighbor with a chainsaw. When the neighbor's party is loud, it's nice to cut them some slack, knowing they will do the same one day. We can all be that kind of neighbor—or we can be the kind that wind up in property casebooks, litigating over boundary lines and spite walls. Whoever wins, everybody loses.

This leads me to two further thoughts, one about the Law School and one about you.

We who work at the Law School are all here, in one way or another, to support you in becoming legal professionals and colleagues. All of us are in this process together, and your success is our success. Every time you meet a deadline, write a sharp brief, congratulate a peer on a triumph, or help a classmate in need, you are living out the habits and values that will make you a great lawyer. And that, ultimately, is what we are all here to help you become.

Similarly, broadly speaking, policies and norms at the Law School exist for two main reasons: (1) to reflect the standards you will be held to as legal professionals and (2) to enable you all to live and work together, accomplishing the primary thing you are here to do: your legal education and professional development.

My own responsibility is to help with exactly that. As a sentient human being on this earth for forty-mumble years, I have lots of opinions. I would guarantee that every one of you disagrees with me about at least one deeply held, core belief. That does not in any way affect my regard for you, and I hope it will not affect yours for me. My job is not about my personal opinions. My job is to serve you as professionals and the Law School as an institution. I will work hard to do that.

More importantly, here's the point about you: although law school is chal-

lenging, if you invest in this community, you can have one of the best experiences of your life. Being connected to your classmates in so many ways can be hard, but it can also be incredible. It can mean relationships deeper than any others. It can mean finding your life partner, or your best friend.

The constant refrain I hear from our alumni—and it echoes what I hear from new 1Ls—is how much they loved law school. Even though their later lives are marked by more maturity, more stability, and more boundaries, they say law school had a magic that later stages of life do not. This is the upside of the unique environment you find yourselves in, the alchemy that all of you, together, produce.

Welcome to the school year. It is full of possibilities, for you as an individual and us as a community. Let us be the best that we can be: neighbors whose differences are an essential source of their strength. In a world riven by so many divisions, our challenge is greater than ever. I often say that the Law School does not have magic dust to make all the world's problems disappear when you enter the door. Sometimes I wish it did. But the truth is, the Law School's magic dust is how much you, like your predecessors, commit to being good neighbors to each other. As challenging as it sometimes is, that is the real magic of this place. I, for one, would not trade it.



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COPA

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enterprises, the *Law Weekly* managing board brought a derivative claim for breach of fiduciary duties against the University. The claim arises out of a change in the ordering software that requires Mandy to type in the specifics of the order and the customer's name, greatly delaying the provision of coffee and muffins. This Justice, wanting just a black coffee, witnessed the delays as our wonderful university employees had to specify the roast and type of milk for my self-serve coffee. The change fails either entire fairness or business judgment review. No manager in his right mind could possibly enact such a change. In addition to damages, this Court also orders reinstatement of the old system.

*In re Missing Books*

**J. Allen delivers the opinion of the court.**

Cognizant of their dual roles as both defenders of the free press and students, in preparing for the new semester members of

the managing board have noticed a spate of books nominally available in the library system but designated "missing." Such status is worse than merely having a title unavailable, as it lulls the reader in need of a text into thinking it is available until further investigation reveals the subterfuge at play. With portions of the library (including the former VLR office) having already been taken for storage of an expanded faculty, the least the library could do is ensure the texts ostensibly within the collection are actually available to needy students. To be sure, it is likely the blame for these missing tomes lies in large part with patrons of the library, for (if not stealing) failing to follow proper procedure. Even so, we hold the administration jointly and severally liable for the damages accumulating from this harm to the student body, as they bear a responsibility for ensuring proper security measures and replacing the needed books which are lost or pilfered.

HOT BENCH

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**tesville restaurant?**

Ivy Provisions. I love their sandwiches and coffee.

**Great pick. Favorite Olympic sport?**

The swim relays are always my favorite. The best Olympic event in our lifetimes was the "Beat the French" 4 x 100m freestyle relay at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

**If you could reboot any movie or TV series, what would it be?**

*The Goonies*, without a doubt. As long as they stick with similar themes, I think it would be a hit.

**I'd definitely watch it! Crocs—in or out?**

Out. It's either tennis shoes or boots for me.

**Which cryptid would you be most excited to encounter in the wild?**

The Loch Ness Monster springs to mind, if only because it means that I am in Scotland. I visited the country with my little brother the summer before 1L year and loved it.

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