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THE DOCKET

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The Docket *recently sat down with Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Benham to talk about everything from the role of the judiciary to his thoughts on being the first African-American elected to Chief Justice. What follows is an interview conducted early last week.*

Docket: Tell us about the Atlanta Legal Aid Society . . . you have a very close relationship with it, and are currently spear-heading a fund drive for them.

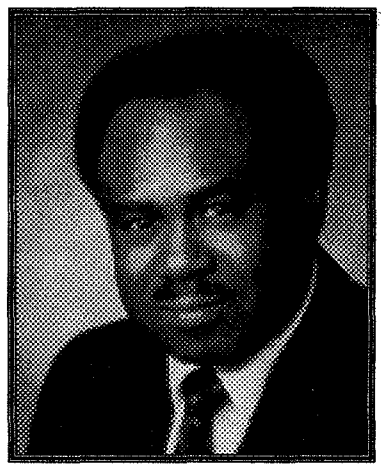
Chief Justice Benham: I worked for Atlanta Legal Aid Society 25 years ago when I first came out of law school, and worked for them for about 6 months prior to my going into the military. I've always had an interest in legal services because I think how we provide representation for the poor is a measure of how viable the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are for all of our citizens. Therefore, in a system of justice we provide access to the system for all of our citizens. Because of budgetary cutbacks on the national level, it is more important now than ever before that we provide legal services to those who are unable to pay for those services. It's important not only for lawyers in the practice get involved, but that law students get involved in those programs at their schools and that they learn early on the need to provide access to the system for all of our citizens.

Docket: Could the ABA legally require law schools provide a certain number of manhours to indigent legal services in exchange for its accreditation?

Chief Justice Benham: Well, that's something I don't think that I should comment upon because courts sometimes get these very issues presented to them. But I think that that reflects the knotty issues for lawyers....all too often we look at issues such as legal services in terms of what is required, looking at the law as being the standard of conduct. I believe the law is the lowest level of *acceptable* conduct. And I think as lawyers and law students, we should have a higher standard of conduct, that is not just what the law requires . . . what we must do. I think that standard should be what is expected of us as an honorable profession. And it seems apparent to me that people of an honorable profession would do something to provide legal representation for the poor.

Docket: The first thing that struck us when walking into this building was the beautiful marble busts of past chief justices, and the oil paintings of the associate justices. Do you see yourself as an historic figure?

Chief Justice Benham: Granted, this is an historic service that I have on the Supreme Court. But I don't look at it as being any evidence of any personal accomplishment on my part. I have always felt that if I stand tall in this position it is because I stand on the shoulders of those giants who preceded me. The fact that I am Chief Justice says very little about me as a person, but I think it speaks volumes about this state in terms of how far we have come in that a person who is a descendant of slaves now sits as chief justice of the Supreme Court. And that in this year, a hundred and fifty years ago, in 1846, when this court was first established, and held its first session in Cass county, it did so less than two miles from where my family was held in slavery. This year we celebrate the Sesquisetennial, and I think it says a lot about the American dream and about hope. Not only here, in this state, but the world. It says a lot about the promise for people of different races, religions and ethnic groups that in this country, although we have problems . . . and in this state . . . although we have problems, it is possible to reach the highest position in the judiciary. That's what I see.



Chief Justice Benham

Docket: That brings up the next question. Walking over here, you can't help but notice the tremendous statue of Governor Talmadge on the lawn of the Capital. Not pointing specifically at him, can Georgia ever erase the judicial sins of its past? Should it?

Chief Justice Benham: I think you are a product of your past. I come to the court by way of the African-American experience. And when I talk about the history of this state, I think of my family as being a part of the difficulty of the past, and part of the progress. I look at it as all Georgians sharing in the progress, and taking responsibility for some of the difficulties in the past. You mentioned Eugene Talmage . . . I know his son Herman, who is a former Governor, who I consider to be a friend of mine, and I think he considers me to be a friend. It shows that people of good will, working together, can bring about change in sprite of the fact that there were difficulties in the past. I would be a sad commentary if we saw Georgia as only being mired down in the past . . . there's nothing we can do about the past. I think the challenge for us is to learn from the past, and build on the things we have in common. If we do that, the things that separate us will become fewer and fewer.

Docket: What have you personally learned from the past? Has your world view changed since you were in law school?

Chief Justice Benham: Of course law school has a moderating influence on people. When I graduated, I was wide-eyed and wanted to change some things, to make the American dream not just a dream but reality. I came out believing that you can have progress through the legal process. When I tried cases, I tried to bring about that progress. Actually, my view hasn't changed at all. Some people marvel at how far we've come over the years; I always thought it was possible. Because growing up in a small town and going back to Northwest Georgia to practice law. . . it was the local judge there who invited me to go back there and practice . . . it was the local bar association that elected me as President of the Bar Association . . . none of that was required by law . . . nobody had to do that. Within 48 hours after I opened my law office, every lawyer in town had been by my office to wish me well. Some had been by to leave me the keys to their office in case I needed to use their libraries; the clerk of court gave me a key to the courthouse in case I needed to use the courthouse. Mind you this was 26 years ago. I think people saw what they should do as good *neighbors* and not what they should do because somebody's black or white. Again, if we concentrate on the things we have in common . . . we'll eventually minimize those things that make us different.

Docket: What influence did your family have on you?

Chief Justice Benham: My mom and dad both believed that there was nothing that my brothers and I couldn't do. This against the backgrown of segregation . . . where it was against the law for us to do a lot of things. All during my childhood, I never knew an African-American lawyer. . . but nobody in my family told me I couldn't be one. They just said, "If you want to be, you will be." We talked about my going into the military. . . there was never any question about whether we would join the military. . . my dad said that "you will go to church, you will perform community service, you will go into the military, and, if necessary, you will die for your country. End of discussion." Despite problems facing this country back then, there was never any question in my family about whether we would be willing to die for this country. It was a view that this country offers a lot to its citizens. . . it's not perfect. . . but the potential was there. My family has always believed that, and I dare say everybody in our community felt that way.

Docket: It sounds as if you came from a family of optimist.

Chief Justice Benham: Oh yes. Ever abiding faith in the goodness of mankind. My mother worked two jobs, my dad had two jobs. My mother worked as a maid, ended up owning her own department store downtown, and my father who was a janitor ended up being a vice mayor of the town. My brothers who used to shine shoes ended up as field grade officers in the military.

Docket: Are your parents still living?

Chief Justice Benham: My mom died about three years ago, and my dad is still alive.

Docket: So they were able to see you rise through the ranks?

Chief Justice Benham: Yes. Both of them were able to see me become a lawyer, to serve on the court of appeals, and to see me come on the Supreme Court. My mom wasn't able to see me become Chief Justice, but her view was that "all of this is possible." I remember when I called her back in the 70's, and told her that I was elected as President of the Bar Association, and she said, "Oh I knew that would happen." Also, I come from a family that believes in community service. I remember my mother would cook for 2-3 days straight and then she would invite the homeless, the aged, the helpless. . . she would take plates to people. . . and it wasn't considered unusual. That's just what you did. That is what you do in a civilized society. If a child is hungry, you don't ask how he got hungry, you just feed him. That's what we need to get back to in this country. Not so much a sense of selfishness, but a sense of shar-

From the Dean.....

This is the season for ceremonial occasions, which are always highlights of the academic year. Early this month, our annual Honors Day enabled us to acknowledge outstanding performances by a significant number of students in academic and organizational settings. Congratulations again to everyone who received awards on that occasion!

I look ahead to our Hooding Ceremony and Commencement with mixed feelings, as always. Our good wishes certainly go with all of you who are completing your academic work, but we will miss your lively presence among us.

A small band of hardy individuals will also be undertaking the July bar examination adventure in Dalton. Preparing for the bar exam is always a challenge, without the added uncertainties of a distant location. I hope that there will be no unforeseen logistical complications for you and that you will find that hurdle to be readily manageable.

This summer will also be a time of transition for me as we welcome our new dean, Janice C. Griffith, to the College of Law. Dean-designate Griffith will bring extensive academic and professional accomplishments to her new role, and I am confident that you will enjoy working with her very much. I am equally confident that she will enjoy working with you. Our diverse, highly talented student body is one of the great attractions of this College of Law. The programming for our wide array of student organizations brings additional vitality to the legal education that we provide.

Before I return to full-time teaching next January, I will be on research leave at Emory's law school during the fall semester. In 1991 I was the Visiting Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute Professor at Emory when I learned about Georgia State's exciting College of Law. So I will be returning to familiar territory and colleagues when I undertake to catch up on technological developments and pursue my interest in comparative bankruptcy practices in other countries' laws.

I look forward eagerly to having much more time to spend with you in the years ahead. Thank you very much for all that you have done to enliven the days of my deanship. It has been a genuine pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to serve you.

Marjorie L. Girth
Dean

-D62

GSU Has Challenged Emory and John Marshall for Atlanta Legal Aid Society

The race is on! Well like it or not, we have challenged Emory College of Law and John Marshall Law School to compete with us to raise funds for the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. I know it is nearing the end of the semester and we are all anxious to turn our attention toward the serious business of exam taking. But consider this: There are certain kinds of stress which actually enable us to perform at our very best - namely a healthy competition between schools to come to the aid of a community servant - the Atlanta Legal Aid Society.

This competition will probably be the most effortless one you will have participated in, and in fact you will each win the moment you decide to participate. Let me tell you how and why this is so. Atlanta Legal Aid Society (Legal Aid) is in need of $500,000. Legal Aid serves the needs of 226,000 poor people in metro-Atlanta with 35 attorneys and three offices. The Society has suffered crippling cutbacks in funding from Legal Services Corporation, which thus far has provided more than 50% of Legal Aid's funding. Due to the reduction in funding, the Society has had to close its Cleveland Avenue office, which serviced some 2,000 clients last year. This closing ended 28 years of service to South Atlanta. Legal Aid operates offices in downtown Atlanta, as well as DeKalb and Cobb counties. Attorneys from these offices still reach to the Cleveland Avenue clients to try and meet their needs as much as possible.

To help offset the anticipated continued reduction in funding, the Society needs our financial support to maintain the quality of services they have offered in Atlanta since 1924. An October 14, 1993 article in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution estimated that the ratio of Legal Aid attorneys to the clients they serve is 1 to 7000. The article reported that attorneys have had to shift their priorities from meeting needs in certain areas of law to those requiring the most urgent counsel, such as victims of abuse or those in immediate danger.

You must be asking yourself exactly what do you have to do to help Georgia State? It's as simple as this: On April 15th and16th, donate the cost of a lunch or dinner to Atlanta Legal Aid. Representatives from the Society, along with school participants, will be on hand in the school lobby ready to give you more information about Atlanta Legal Aid and accept your donations. Student Organizations are encouraged to challenge other organizations, and maybe the faculty would accept a challenge from us. Law classes, challenge your professors. The sky is the limit of your imagination. Let's find ways to participate in this humanitarian cause. Information will be in your mailboxes the week before the two day competition. Our objective is to raise more money than Emory or John Marshall. Encourage a friend to give up his or her dinner too.

Your involvement in this spirit of challenge is crucial to its success. As the sponsor of the competition, Georgia State University will be memorialized in a small way. This is the first time the schools have attempted such an avenue for fundraising, therefore we have a keen interest in assuring the drive is a resounding success. This will occur only in two instances: (1) if law students are willing to donate the cost of a lunch or dinner, or maybe two lunches or two dinners or (2) if students would rather donate an hour of time to help distribute literature at the display on April 15th and 16th.

Let's enjoy the race and invest in seeing that Georgia State University College of Law Win! Win! Win! And remember,

THE BEAUTY OF THIS PARTICULAR CONTEST IS THAT EVERYBODY WINS!!!

by Kathryn Watson
Project Coordinator

Law Review Selects New Members

During the summer break, the *Georgia State University Law Review* will select its new candidates from the first year class. As in the past years, the *Law Review* will invite the top 14 first year students to join, based upon first year grade rankings (including part-time students who have completed first year requirements). The *Law Review* will invite an additional 14 students to join, based upon the successful completion of a writing competition to be conducted over the latter part of the summer. The dates will be announced later, and each student will be notified by mail. By way of example, last year's competition began the first week of August and was due two weeks later.

The writing competition will require all eligible students to complete a legal note, centered around a topic that will be selected during the summer. The *Law Review* will select the topic, provide all research needed for completion of the paper (unlike RWA), and will distribute the materials to all interested students late in the summer. To be eligible, the student must have ranked in the upper 50% of the first year class, based on the end of first year rankings, and completed all first year law school requirements.

Additionally, all 28 students will be required to complete a Blue Book exam during the same period, before invitation into *Law Review* will be tendered. If there are any questions regarding the selection process or any issue concerning the *Law Review*, please do not hesitate to contact any *Law Review* member.

- Marty McFarland
Law Review Research Editor

Moot Court Holds Annual Awards Banquet

The College of Law's Moot Court Board held its annual awards banquet on Saturday, April 11, 1996 at the Atlanta Brewing Company. In addition to most Moot Court members, a number of faculty and alumni also attended the event to make this year's banquet one of the most successful in quite some time.

During the course of events, Vice President for Appellate Advocacy, Michelle Brown, announced the Board's awards for the fall competition that made up the Appellate Advocacy class. Tommy Mazziotti received the award for Best Oralist, and Jamie Kreyenbuhl received the awards for Best Brief and Best Overall Advocate.

As the evening progressed, Kimberly Stone, Vice President for RWA, announced the competition teams that will represent the school in various tournaments next year. Kyle Alexander, Megan Stanley, and Jason Poulos will travel with their coach, Scott Williamson, to Chicago to compete in the Information and Privacy Competition.

The school will send two teams to the regional Trademark Competition that is held here in Atlanta. The first team will be made up of Charlotte Combre, Ajay Jindia, and a rising secondyear student, and the second team will include Allison Richardson, Scott Shaw, and a rising second-year student. These teams will be coached by Kim Nieting and Shannon Randhawa, respectively.

Likewise, the school will also send two teams to the regional ABA Competition that was held this past year in Washington, D.C. The first team will be coached by Brian McEvoy, and it will include Cynthia Jones and two rising second-year students. The second team will be coached by Ana Kennedy, and it will consist of Susan Smith and two rising second-year students.

Two teams consisting only of rising second-year students will also compete again next year in the Georgia Intrastate Competition. These teams will be coached by Kristin Childers and Melissa Robichaud.

Finally, the school also will send one team to both the Labor Law Competition in New York City and the National Moot Court Competition, the regional of which is held here in Atlanta. The Labor Law team will consist of Tamara Baines, Brad Strawn, and Laura Hyman, and their coaches will be both Tony Tatum and Mark Williamson. The National Competition team will be made up of Amy Bogartz, Tommy Mazziotti, and Jamie Kreyenbuhl. Their coach will be Lee Little. Expectations for all of these teams are very high.

As the banquet came to a close, Matt Lawrence moved on to announce the executive officers for the 1996-97 academic year. Trey Reese will serve as Vice President for Development, Connie Rubin as Vice President for Competitions, Jason Poulos as Vice President for RWA, Melissa Robichaud as Vice President for Appellate Advocacy, Susan Smith as Vice President of Moot Court, and Jamie Kreyenbuhl will take over for Matt Lawrence as President of the Moot Court Board.

Many of the newly elected officers will be attending first year Property and Civil Procedure classes over the next week to explain to those students the benefits of participating in the Moot Court Program. All rising second-year students who meet the minimum requirements are encouraged to take part in next fall's Appellate Advocacy class in an attempt to secure their own position on the Board. The performances of many first-year students in the recent RWA competitions bodes well for the future of Moot Court here at GSU. All members are looking forward to an exciting and successful year.

- Matt Lawrence
President of the Moot Court Board

Benham, cont. from pg. 1

ing. We also need to get back to solving problems as lawyers rather than going through the lengthy process of a civil suit ... we also should encourage communities to solve their own problems. I think the best solutions are not those that are reached in court. . . they are the ones reached across the dinner table, the backyard fence, and across the conference table. This next decade will be the real test for this state. We have many different peoples coming into this state. . . different ethnic backgrounds, different religions. . . the test will be how we treat other people. . . whether we wrap them in the protection of our constitution and whether we will seek to weave them into the fabric of American life rather than to exclude them.

Docket: What qualities should a judge have?

Chief Justice Benham: You have to be open-minded, level-headed, sure-footed and firm and anchored in what the law is. If you have those qualities, then you are suited to be a judge. But those things alone will not save you from criticism. When you decide to become a judge, you must also decide to make difficult decisions. There is a difference between being a judge and being a legislator, there is a difference in the branches of government. Hopefully, when a judge makes a decision, he will be rooted in the law and the interpretation of the law rather than the public will. I think judges would like to do the things that are popular. . . but being a judge means that you will also must do some unpopular things. That's the real test of a judge.

Docket: In what direction do you see this court going?

Chief Justice Benham: I would like to see citizens empowered to solve their problems or seek to solve them before bringing them to the courts for a solution. We need more problem solvers out in the community. And, although it speaks well of the judiciary that citizens turn to us with alarming frequency . . . I hope it's because they have faith in the system. . . but I would also like for them to also have some faith in themselves in solving their problems. I do not want to expand this court, but rather to use this court as a last resort, rather than a method of first resort, as we have become.

Docket: Any advise to law students?

Chief Justice Benham: I think the biggest challenge facing law students is one of improving the image of the profession. Three years ago, we had 149,00 students apply for law school. Just last year, we had a little over 79,000. We have some attitudes out in society about lawyers and the role of lawyers that is troubling to me. I think that lawyers have brought about significant change, a positive change in this country . . . progress. We must do something, and I mean a joint effort between law students and lawyers, to restore the public's faith in the law . . . to restore faith in themselves to resolve difficulties on their own.

LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT:

An Open Letter to the Nation's Law Students

barbri BAR REVIEW

Richard J. Conviser
President & CEO

176 West Adams Street, Suite 2100, Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 782-6616 • (800) 621-0498 • Fax: (312) 782-2378

Dear Students:

More than 25 years ago, I founded BAR/BRI Bar Review upon two core principles: First, law students deserve the best and most up-to-date bar review possible; second, they should expect their bar review course to maintain the highest ethical standards in informing students about the courses. Since that time, everyone at BAR/BRI has held fast to those principles.

Unfortunately, the nation's newest bar review, West Bar, has not.

In law schools across America, West Bar has blanketed bulletin boards and flooded student mailboxes with misleading flyers and letters. Students everywhere are being asked to believe that BAR/BRI has been stripped of its best and brightest.

I assure you that nothing could be farther from the truth. In over 25 years as the head of this company, I have never responded directly to the claims and puffery of other bar review courses. However, in light of the sheer volume of misinformation, I feel compelled to separate fact from fiction.

FICTION: BAR/BRI's management has left.
FACT: Last year, *two* former BAR/BRI employees started West Bar. Contrary to West Bar's claims, neither ever served as the President or National Director of our company. In fact, both were primarily regional directors with no meaningful input in the creation or editing of materials or lectures. It is true, however, that these two former employees aggressively pursued many of BAR/BRI's attorneys. Their efforts fell flat. Of the more than 50 attorneys working for BAR/BRI nationwide, a grand total of *one* left.

FICTION: All of BAR/BRI's best faculty "went West."
FACT: Here too, West Bar's aggressive pursuit was in vain. BAR/BRI has *over 300 lecturers* in 46 jurisdictions. *Only 10* left to join the two former BAR/BRI employees in their "start-up" bar review. *Seven of these ten* were ranked in the bottom 25% on BAR/BRI student evaluations.

Your bar exam is too important to be left to inexperience. I know that students have historically selected their bar review course based on experience and quality. I trust that BAR/BRI's more than 25 years of preparing students for bar exams nationwide counts as experience. And I am sure that *over 500,000* successful attorneys can vouch for our quality.

We look forward to helping you make the bar exam a once-in-your-lifetime experience.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Conviser

Celebrating Over 25 Years of Excellence

Right-to-Know vs. Privacy

It's not enough that newspaper publishers these days worry about exorbitant print costs, shrinking markets and electronic media competitors; now they may have to resurrect battles fought more than 15 years ago to keep courtrooms open to the press.

Since the late 1970s and early '80s, journalists have rarely had to fight courtroom closures. Various court decisions, including the Georgia Supreme Court's decision in R.W. Page Corp. v. Lumpkin, 292 S.E.2d 815, made it extremely difficult for judges to close courtrooms to the public and the press. (Though the issue of letting cameras into the courtroom is more tentative. The O.J. Simpson trial and a recent experiment with cameras in Federal courtrooms has drawn decidedly mixed reviews on the subject, according to some media experts).

At least one Georgia judge is now asking the Supreme Court to uphold a closure. In a Rockdale County death penalty case, Chief Superior Court Judge Clarence R. Vaughn Jr. closed pre-trial hearings citing "highly inflammatory" media coverage of an alleged torture-slaying in the east metro county.

Vaughn's closure ruling was remanded back to him by the high court, which asked Vaughn to specifically state why he closed the pre-trial hearings and why the alternatives to closure, as stated in R.W. Page, would not work. The R.W. Page case was about the murder of a pregnant woman by alleged hitmen hired by the woman's husband and his girlfriend. Alternatives to courtroom closure announced in R.W. Page include a change of venue (which Vaughn has granted in the Rockdale case in addition to closing the hearings), jury sequestration, postponement of the trial, searching voir dire, and clear and emphatic instructions to the jury to consider only evidence presented in open court.

In his order clarifying his position, Vaughn leans on his assertion that the "tenor" of the newspaper articles was "highly inflammatory" and not "dry recitations." These articles, and potential future articles, will prejudice the jury pool and infringe on the defendant's right to a fair trial, he says. The articles were all gleaned from public record or from the district attorney's pretrial public statements, according to the Supreme Court's initial opinion remanding the case. The stories recounted the defendant's alleged confession of torturing his victim.

Vaughn has already changed the venue in this case to Hall County, yet he also asserts his "assumption" that the Rockdale Citizen Newspaper's press coverage will continue there - having a pervasive effect on prospective jurors and prejudicing the defendant. Vaughn also says that even though he has changed the venue to Hall County, the Rockdale Citizen's coverage will entice the Hall County and Atlanta media to also cover the event. (Does this assumption also carry with it the assumption that the Hall County and Atlanta media base their news judgment on what the Rockdale Citizen does?)

Jury sequestration, Judge Vaughn continues, can only happen in the trial phase, which doesn't help here with pre-trial hearings. Further, searching voir dire and clear and emphatic instructions to the jury are also not adequate alternatives to closing the hearings, he said. The reason: if the pre-trial hearings are kept open, the press will cover the hearings, causing the need for a greater number of potential jurors to be called, which will require a lengthy voir dire process, thereby "delaying sequestration and increasing the chance of the jurors being exposed to publicity during the pendency of the voir dire."

Although most jurors would take their oaths seriously, Rockdale County District Attorney Cheryl F. Custer said at oral argument before the Supreme Court last month that she has been lied to by jurors in the past, and that careful jury selection was not necessarily enough to prevent jury prejudice, according to the Fulton County Daily Report.

Judge Vaughn is articulate and emphatic in his fight for the protection of this particular defendant's constitutional rights, however the Daily Report is predicting his reasons for closure won't be enough for the Supreme Court to uphold his decision.

Lawyers, newspaper publishers, television news directors and perhaps even judges around Georgia are anxiously awaiting the outcome of this Rockdale case, knowing the high court's ruling could establish either stricter or more lenient closure standards with which they will all have to contend in the future.

Mary Hawk is a first-year law student at Georgia State

Using the World Wide Web for Legal Research

Here is a short list of web sites of interest to legal researchers. Most of the sites listed below contain further links to other web sites. If you do not have access to the world wide web at home, you can use the GALILEO stations (see related article) in the OLLI alcove of the Law Library or the main computer labs on campus.

If you have a home computer with windows and a modem, find out how you can log onto the Web from home! See Jason Puckett in the library's computer lab or a consultant at the main computer lab in the Library South building on campus. Note: you must have a Panther account to browse the web from home.

Never been on the WEB? See Nancy Deel, Electronic Services Librarian, or Jason Puckett, lab consultant for instruction on Netscape.

HAPPY SURFING!

REALLY GOOD starting places:

"The Legal Web: Law Schools" by Villanova
URL: http://ming.law.vill.edu/VCILP/legalweb.lawschools.html

"The Virtual Law Library Reference Desk" by Lissa Hotzhausen
URL: http://law.wuacc.edu - follow link to "REFLAW"

"The Legal List" by Eric Heels
URL: http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/washlaw/reflaw/refheels.5-1

"How do I Find... Law-Related Internet Resources" by Cindy Chick
URL: http://law.wuacc.edu/scall/sources.html

"Meta-Index for Leagl Research" by Patrick Wiseman
URL: http://www.gsu.edu/~lawadmn/lawform.html

"The WWW Virtual Library - Law"
URL: http://www.law.indiana.edu:80/law/lawindex/html

"Guides to Law-Related Resources" by St. Louis Univ. School of Law
URL: http://lawlib.slu.edu/misc/topical.htm

"Yahoo - Law"
URL: http://www.yahoo.com/law

"Inter-law's 'lectric Law Library"
URL: http://www.inter-law.com

Georgia Law Libraries:

GSU	http://www.gsu.edu/~lawadmn/lawlibrary
EMORY	http://www.law.emory.edu/LAW/law.html
UGA	http://www.lawsch.uga.edu

Other Law Libraries:

Chicago-Kent College of Law
http://www.kentlaw.edu
Cornell Law Library
http://www.law.cornell.edu/library/default.html
Emory Univ. School of Law
http://www.law.emory.edu
Indiana Univ. School of Law
http://www.law.indiana.edu
Saint Louis Univ. School of Law
http://lawlib.slu.edu/home.htm
Villanova Center for Info. Law & Policy
http://ming.law.vill.edu/VCILP.html
Washburn Law School, "WashLaw"
http://law.wuacc.edu

Government sites:

US Congress	http:/thomas.loc.gov
White House	http://www.whitehouse.gov
FedWorld Information Network	http://www.fedworld.gov
Library of Congress	http://lcweb.loc.gov/homepage/lchp.html
"Federal Web Locator"	http://www.law.vill.edu:80/Fed-Agency/fedwebloc.html
"DocLaw WWW"	http://law.wuacc.edu - follow link to "Federal Law"
"US House of Rep. Internet Law Library"	http://www.pls.com:8001

Contributed by
Rhea Ballard-Thrower

Who Is Joe Phillips?

The recent movie The Usual Suspects had audiences asking the question, "Who is Kaiser Soyze?" However, the third year students have recently been asking another question: "Who is Joe Phillips?"

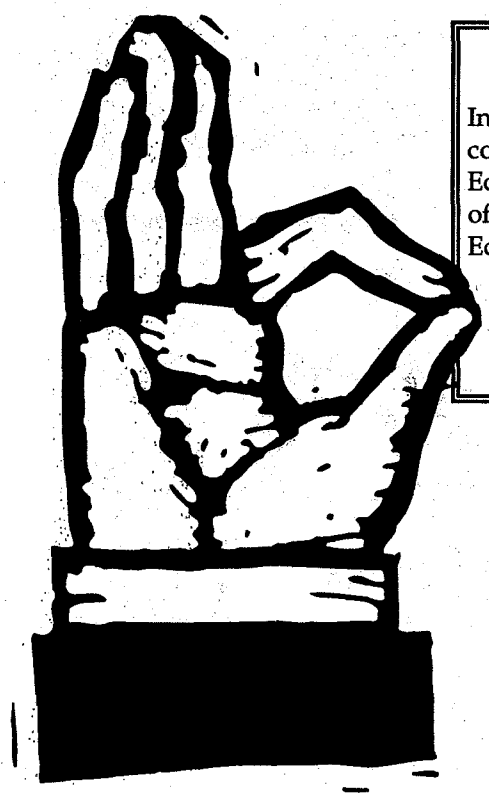
Joe Phillips is an ideal towards which we are all striving. Joe Phillips is a frame of mind. Joe Phillips is not so much a person as Joe phillips is a movement; a mutual consciousness realized from the collective dreams and desires of people suffering through the same struggle. When a 3L closes his or her eyes and imagines a brighter tomorrow, surely they are picturing some form of Joe Phillips.

Although we can pinpoint the actual day and time that Joe Phillips was first discussed out loud, we can never really determine when Joe Phillips actually began. There was a lunch-time conversation in the cafeteria, some notes passed in class, hushed talks in the hallways, late-night phone calls - but can we actually say that Joe Phillips never existed prior to those fleeting moments? Which leads to the inevitable question: Is Joe Phillips a reality? Much like the way a law school professor answers a student's query in class, the best way to answer this question is with further questions: Is this relevant? Do we really want to know the answer?

Some lonely Sunday evening, your phone might ring, and it might be nothing more than a wrong number. Or, it might very well be Joe Phillips. Or it could be both. Will you answer the phone? That is the question whose answer will separate you from your classmates for the rest of your life.

It is destined that one among us in the 3rd year class will have the good fortune to one day meet Joe Phillips. All of the hopes and fears of the 3Ls will be with this lucky soul upon that day, as she enters the magical, mystical realm of Joe Phillips. She has had the courage to answer the phone - will you?

J.P.



We're Sorry!

In the last issue of *The Docket* we congratulated the new *Law Review* Editorial Board, but we mistakenly left off the new position of Symposium Editor . . .

Congratulations
Kim Dammers!

Editor's Corner...

The Docket is still looking for a few individuals to fill several editorial spots for next year. You may have noticed that this issue is half the size of our normal issues, and this is directly attributable to a pervasive lack of enthusiasm on behalf of our student body for this publication. Over the past few months, we have taken The Docket from a relatively small, xeroxed edition to a fairly well-organized printed newspaper. With this progress, we have attracted attention from the faculty and from advertisers wanting to contribute to what you read each an every month. Yet progress has been a double-edged sword. While the new format has allowed for more material to be included, the same number of students are responsible for its publication.

In short, we cannot continue to publish a law school newspaper if no more than two or three students out of 584 contribute to its publication. It is simply too much work. However, with a staff of six or eight, each editor would have no more than 2-3 hours of work assigned to them each month. If you are interested, drop a note in Box 577.

Okay, off my soapbox. It's summertime! I hope that each and every one of you have a productive and relaxing summer . . . I think it's much needed at this point. Take care, and good luck to everyone on finals.

- Joe Wyant