



VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

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

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Being a (Palestinian-American) Law Student During a Genocide

Catie Haddad '25
Guest Writer

Editor's Note: Thank you to Catie Haddad for contributing this article. This article does not necessarily reflect the views of the Virginia Law Weekly or any of its editors. All members of the community are welcome to submit articles to the Law Weekly. People interested in having their articles considered for publication should email:

editor@lawweekly.org

I spent much of the first three years of my life at my teta and jidu's¹ home in San Luis Obispo, California. In their backyard, they had a large garden with every fruit and vegetable variety imaginable. As my jidu and I would walk around the garden identifying different plants, I noticed everything from cherries, figs, grapefruit, and watermelon to avocados, zucchini, and edible flowers that he would incessantly encourage me to try. One summer, jidu chopped down one of the garden's palm trees for the heart of palm, something my nine-year-old, suburban Californian self found both strange and exciting.

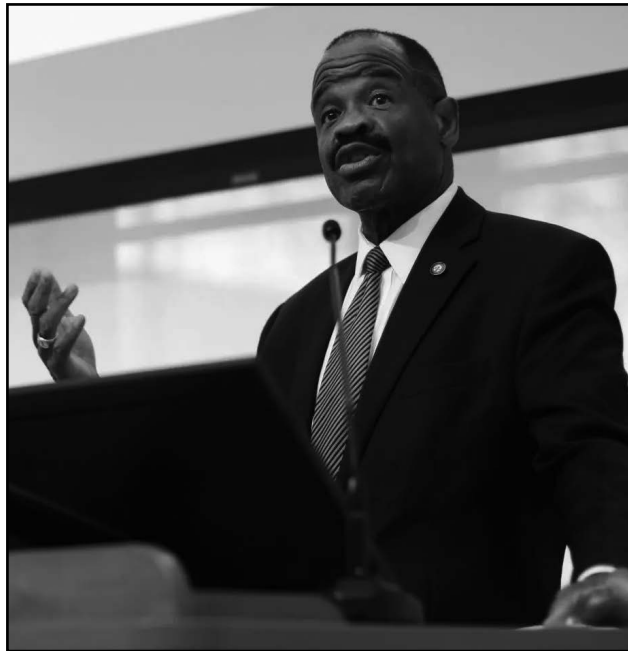
My teta and I would spend hours searching the patio for ladybugs as my grandparents' Pomeranian, Jolie, played with her toys. When I think of their garden now, I feel grateful that they were able to have a sliver of homeland in their California backyard—that for a second when they woke up and looked out the window in the morning, they would be able to imagine they were not in San Luis Obispo but instead were in Baghdad or Haifa. When I think of my teta and jidu now, I think of the way my mixed identity has allowed me to grow up without cer-

¹ Teta and Jidu translate to grandmother and grandfather in Arabic.

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. and His Legacy at UVA Law



Ashanti Jones '26
Staff Editor



*Pictured: Keegan Hudson '24 and Blake D. Morant '78
Photo Credits: UVA Law*

On Thursday, January 25, the University of Virginia School of Law held their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. community celebration. The event was co-sponsored by the School's Center for the Study of Race and Law and its chapter of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA). For this year's celebration, keynote speaker Blake D. Morant '78 (Col. '75) delivered a lecture titled "The Contextuality of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy," and Keegan Hudson '24 received the 2024 Gregory H. Swanson Award.

Professor Kimberly Robinson (Col. '92), Karsh Bicentennial Professor of Law and director of the Center for the Study of Race and Law, welcomed those in attendance to Charlottesville and reminded guests of the impact of Dr. King's legacy on Virginia Law and the legal community at large.

"We all owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. King," Robinson said. "His legacy played a critical role in creating a path that allows us to gather together as the strong and diverse University of Virginia School of Law that we are today. His legacy challenges us to continue to work diligently to make equality, inclusion, and belonging a reality not just for our stu-

dents, our faculty, and our staff, but even more importantly for the communities and clients that we serve."

Following the opening remarks, Robinson invited Dean Risa Goluboff to present the seventh annual Gregory H. Swanson Award. The award was created in 2018 to honor the legacy of Swanson—the first Black student to be admitted to the University of Virginia and Virginia Law. In 1950, Swanson was denied admission to the Law School's LL.M. program due to his race. With the assistance of notable counsel from the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, such as Thurgood Marshall and Spottwood Robinson, Swanson sued the University in federal court and won. Goluboff began by reflecting on the adverse treatment Swanson's legacy has received from the University and reframed Swanson's story as one of success and triumph.

"The story of Gregory Swanson had long, at the University of Virginia, been considered a story of shame and failure," Goluboff said. "It had often been excluded from the way the institution had told its history although Black students and alums had passed it down from one to another for genera-

tions . . . there was so much success here for Gregory Swanson. Success in using the law to do justice and the best traditions of our profession, success in changing the face of this university and this law school, success in inspiring other Black students who quickly followed him to UVA, prompting other universities in Virginia to integrate after his successful lawsuit, and success in helping make us the diverse and inclusive institution we are today."

Goluboff described the Swanson Award as a link between the past and the present since it provides an opportunity to reflect on Swanson's previous contributions to the institution while also honoring current students' contributions that mirror Swanson's by demonstrating "courage, perseverance, and a commitment to justice." Dean Goluboff shared how this year's award recipient, Keegan Hudson '24, embodies these values at the Law School, both on and off grounds.

"Keegan is a true servant leader," Dean Goluboff said. "He routinely puts others before himself and he builds community wherever he goes in the organizations,

around north grounds



Thumbs up to the first edition of the *Law Weekly* this semester. ANG looks forward to making law students' weeks just a little bit worse.



Thumbs down to Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s recent visit to the Law School. ANG agreed with everything that Mr. Kennedy said, until he refused to name ANG as his running mate. So much for being a proud Wahoo.



Thumbs sideways to the midway toast. ANG appreciates the free booze, but there's nothing "midway" about it. In fact, ANG has been invited to join every year for the past eight years but has gotten no closer to graduating.



Thumbs up to Libel auditions. ANG didn't get a part but plans to show up anyway and haunt the other performers with ANG's brooding presence and theater kid energy.



Thumbs down to taxes being due. If ANG paid taxes, ANG would be very stressed right now.



Thumbs sideways to the entrepreneur who stole the ruby slippers from The Wizard of Oz. ANG is very grateful for his hard work, even if the slippers do not fit very well.



Thumbs up to the random summer days in the middle of winter. ANG thrives on chaos and finally has justification for wearing shorts in January.



Thumbs down to the roadwork on Hydraulic Road. ANG carved those potholes for a reason and wishes for it to remain as such.



Thumbs up to Oklahoma City's proposed 1907-foot-tall skyscraper. ANG admires Oklahoma's grandiosity, which is second only to ANG's.

Lets Get Reoriented: Student Affairs Talks 1L Spring

Ethan Brown '25
Features Editor



On Tuesday, January 23, this tired 2L did something deserving of a medal: I voluntarily sat through Student Affairs' "Reorientation for 1Ls and LL.M. Students." Surrounded by throngs of plucky 1Ls dying to hear if they're going to flunk out of UVA Law because they got a B+ in Torts,¹ I listened to Deans Goluboff and Davies describe to students the various obstacles of the spring semester, offering words of encouragement about the same.

I remember the class of 2025's Reorientation last year quite well—namely, how much everybody hated it. Last year's Reorientation largely centered around a panel of three UVA Law alumni who talked at us about how miserable legal practice is—surely a valid topic, but not exactly what you want to hear when you're already feeling a little negative about returning to school after a bruising 1L fall.

So even though it wasn't

¹ They absolutely will not.

my dream way of spending half an hour on a Tuesday afternoon, I was at least a little interested in seeing if Student Affairs had tweaked things from last year. And to my welcome surprise, this year's Reorientation did seem better, both in content and audience reception. Most of the 1Ls I spoke to about the event didn't have the same vitriol that last year's meeting attracted.

Dean Risa Goluboff spoke first. Echoing many of the sentiments she expressed last year, Dean Goluboff reminded the 1Ls and LL.M.s present that the first semester of law school is meant to be hard—and that there is no shame in feeling that way. She noted that after her first semester, she too feared that she wasn't getting the whole "thinking like a lawyer" thing. But obviously, with time, it clicked. She encouraged students to be patient until it does for them too.

Dean Goluboff also touched on the frustrations that many 1Ls feel after taking four months of Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, and Torts, all of which might feel distantly removed from the topics that brought



Pictured: Deans Risa Goluboff and Sarah Davies
Photo Credit: UVA Law

students to UVA Law in the first place. She said that these courses—even if they aren't the sexiest in the world—help form a solid foundation for students' legal education, a foundation that will no doubt help them in their elective classes this spring. 1Ls are eligible to take up to seven credits of electives in areas of personal interest, a tantalizing prospect but one that segued nicely into Dean Goluboff's next point. It is impossible to do everything at UVA Law, and she cautioned students against biting off more than they could chew.

Indeed, there is a lot for 1Ls to chew on this semester, as Assistant Dean for Stu-



dent Affairs Sarah Davies '91 and Student Affairs Director Megan Durkee '15 made clear. Once Dean Goluboff had concluded her remarks by encouraging 1Ls to seize the exciting months ahead of them—and by strongly reminding 1Ls that their fall grades do not define them²—Student Affairs took over to outline the items on the agenda until May. The list is long. 1Ls this semester face two heavy doctrinal lifts in Constitutional Law and Property; classes for the first time with 2Ls (gasp) and 3Ls (bigger gasp); journal tryouts in February and March; student organization leadership elections;

² They absolutely do not.

job applications; networking events; LRW briefing and oral arguments; the list goes on.

Dean Davies cautioned the importance of staying sane during all of these events. Even during things as daunting as the journal tryout, take time to talk with friends, exercise, shower, sleep, eat, and relax. She said that the same logic should dictate for every other event during the semester, which as someone who has recently gone through the gauntlet of 1L spring, I wholeheartedly endorse.

Keeping to a tight hour-long presentation, Dean Davies then invited four UVA Law alumni—Joe Charlet '18, Jonathan York '18, Dascher Pasco '18, and Rambert Tyree '22—to the stage. Your humble writer left just a few minutes after they began talking because he got hungry. But I am sure they offered similar advice to Deans Goluboff and Davies: Keep calm, take a deep breath, and do your best.

As a closing message, I will offer my own unsolicited Reorientation advice. 1L spring is hard. I found

REORIENTATION page 6

A 3L's (Unsolicited) Advice for Your 1L Spring

Monica Sandu '24
Production Editor



As the snow thaws over Grounds that come back to life with the arrival of the spring semester, some of you are experiencing your first ever law school classes without your trusty 1L section. Just when you thought you'd conquered your fear of cold calls, casebooks, and 8:00 a.m. classes without coffee, you suddenly find yourself thrust into the world with few, if any, other 1Ls around you. Now that add/drop is over, it is time for me to share some sage wisdom with you as you navigate this new, and often unexpected, side of 1L.

First, realize that you're going to be in classes with spring semester 3Ls. That alone should make you feel better. But even knowing that the curve was safe, one of the most challenging things I encountered as a 1L was the sense of isolation that came with being in a class where it seemed like everybody knew everybody, and I didn't know anyone. While it's certainly easier said than done, this can be a chance to make connections

with 2Ls and 3Ls. Some may have already taken classes you're interested in for the upcoming semesters (and have the outlines to prove it). Even if they haven't, simply talking to them can be a way to combat imposter syndrome – they're often as just as confused as you are, if not more.¹

You may also be able to seek out fellow 1Ls who are in other sections, especially those with whom you don't have classes otherwise. It's a good middle ground between meeting new people and having someone who can fully sympathize with your LRW oral argument stress. Still, don't feel like you *have* to turn every lecture into a networking event. Spring provides many opportunities for extra-curricular socializing. You have Feb Club and Barrister's Ball in February; the Libel Show, whether you're part of the cast, the crew, or the crowd;² countless student group events; and the tried

¹ Bonus points if you watch them online shop through an entire lecture.

² Be sure to come on 1L night to see all your favorite professors (congenially) roast you in song form!

and tested method of joining the always-prestigious and ever-welcoming *Law Weekly*.³

Next, the 1L job application process is in full swing. You've certainly heard this many times before, but Career Services will be your best friend through this process. Their resources are at your disposal, and their job is to help you find a job. Many students use their 1L summer to explore a particular field they may be interested in, while others want to gain general experience in the practice of law. Some use it as an opportunity to experience public service law before going into the private sector, or to do private work before becoming a public service lawyer. Spending some time pinpointing what you want to get out of the summer is crucial, not only for targeting applications and getting interviews, but for your personal fulfillment and wellbeing.

While it's a good idea to have a general sense of the direction you want to pursue, you don't have to know exactly what specialty within the law you are going to go

³ Every Monday at 5:45 p.m. in SL279.

into, nor are you expected to already be an expert in your area of interest. Potential employers understand that you are a law *student*. While you should definitely research the firms, programs, and practice areas you apply for, you should also demonstrate your dedication, your passion for knowledge, and all those things that make you someone with whom others will want to work. These will also help you decide where *you* see yourself working.

There will inevitably be some rejections. But these rejections are not personal failings – it's just the nature of the application process. Be sure to work with Career Services to navigate your applications, find open positions, prepare for interviews, and draft cover letters and resumes. Communicate so that your concerns can be addressed as soon as possible.

Lastly, and perhaps most crucially, be kind to yourself. Try to not treat your milestones as stepping stones. Celebrate your accomplishments by recognizing them for what they are – accomplishments, not just meet-

ing expectations.⁴ Hold tight to the friends you make, and be one another's support system. This semester may have fewer breaks than the fall, but it goes by much more quickly. And although 1Ls always lose in the Court of Petty Appeals, we at the *Law Weekly* still want you to see you succeed.⁵ Good luck out there, kids.

⁴ For example, getting through an interview that made you extremely anxious is something to be proud of, regardless of whether or not it resulted in a callback.

⁵ Or at least bring us a COPA suit funny enough to rule in your favor.



PALESTINE

continued from page 1

tain Western biases. My jidū was Iraqi and Muslim, and my teta was a Palestinian-Lebanese Christian, but to me, even though I was half white and American, they were simply my grandparents.

In their garden and at their home, they taught me how to look at mundane objects and moments with tremendous love, curiosity, and humanity. Now, I advocate for Palestine and for the universality of human rights because of this love—my love for humanity has fueled my belief that if everyone had access to the information I have used to learn about Palestine, they would naturally reach the same conclusions as I have.

They would come to view Palestinians not as a population of terrorists, but as a people who have been occupied, displaced, and terrorized for years in their ancestral homeland.² They would

² See *Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians*, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (June 23, 2023); Omar Shakir, HUM. RTS. WATCH, *A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution* (Eric Goldstein et al eds., 2021); Press Release, United Nations,

see Palestinians as human beings who deserve to live as much as anyone else. They would mourn the deaths of Palestinians as they do the deaths of Ukrainians. They would also come to learn, I believe, that Palestinian resistance is fueled by Palestinians' profound love for their land and their culture, which are inextricably linked.³ Opening their eyes and hearts, they would no longer see those tending to thousand-year-old olive trees as the aggressors, but rather those bulldozing them.⁴

Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in OPT: Israel Has Imposed Upon Palestine an Apartheid Reality in a Post-apartheid World (Mar. 25, 2022)

³ Rouhana, A. (2024, January 19). *The Subversive Act of photographing Palestinian life*. The New York Times.

⁴ "Since 1967, more than eight hundred thousand Palestinian olive trees have been illegally uprooted by Israeli authorities and settlers. Many were centuries old." (this article was published in October of 2023, so this number does not include the number of olive trees that have been destroyed by Israeli airstrikes since then, nor the trees being destroyed by bombing right now in real time). Shehadeh, R. (2023, October 26). *The uprooting of life in Gaza and the West Bank*. The New Yorker.

Over the past three months,⁵ I have felt around me a growing sense of cognitive and emotional dissonance. It is difficult to remain socially and academically engaged in a reality where my ethnic identity circumscribes the feelings I'm allowed to express. I

⁵ Since the beginning of their retaliatory assault on Gaza, the Israeli Defense/Occupation Forces (IDF/IOF) have unleashed more than 65,000 tons of bombs on the besieged strip (around four times as much explosive power as the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima). 25,000 Palestinians, including 10,000 children, have been killed in just over 100 days. Nearly 8,000 more people are reported to be missing or presumed dead under rubble. Approximately 1,000 children have lost one or both legs. During the week of January 15th, the World Health Organization announced that none of Gaza's 36 hospitals are fully functional, as many have been bombed and others are operating at 200% capacity with limited services. 95% of those facing starvation in the world are in Gaza. Siddiqui, U., & Pietromarchi, V. (2024, January 7). *More than 8,000 people missing in the rubble in Gaza*. Al Jazeera. (2023, December 16); Tétrault-Farber, G. (2023, December 21). *Northern Gaza no longer has a functional hospital, WHO says*. Reuters. (2023, December 21); Coles, I., & Ayyoub, A. (2024, January 22). *Tiny Gaza is home to most of the world's hungriest people*. The Wall Street Journal.

often think that if I was not Palestinian- or Arab-American—if I was Ukrainian or from another ethnic group whose pain the West views as legitimate—the only thing I'd be doing right now would be grieving and resting. This is not my reality. Instead, I must first attempt to assist my peers in recognizing my humanity and the humanity of my people.

I have put my thoughts on this page to process what is happening and to bring others into this processing. Every day, I think about different avenues and ways of getting my peers involved in the Palestinian liberation movement. I think to myself, Palestine might not feel like a natural cause to support for everyone, but I can show them why it is. I will tell those interested in environmentalism about the ongoing destruction of olive trees, the rampant herbicide attacks unleashed on Palestinian land both pre- and post-2023, and the weaponization of resources as tools of ecocide.⁶ For those who

⁶ Forensic Architecture . (2019, July 19). *Herbicide Warfare in Gaza*. Forensic; Shuker, Z. (2023, December 19). *War has poisoned Gaza's land and water. Peace will require environmental justice*. The Century Foundation.

care about women's rights, I will tell them about how women in Gaza have been taking pills to suppress their menstrual periods because they can't get sanitary pads due to the siege, or that miscarriages in Gaza have increased 300% over the recent months.⁷

Each day as I ruminate through these mental exercises, I pose numerous questions to myself: Which is more bearable—violently compromising my morals, my integrity, and my humanity while willingly enabling a genocide in the process, or speaking up and losing a job or friends? When someone asks me and my peers someday what we were doing during this time, will we feel proud answering "nothing, our hands were tied"? Who has tied our hands, and why can't we help each other to untie them?

⁷ Zhang, S., Images, A. via G., Sharon Zhang, Syed, R., Dilawar, A., Walker, C., Luthra, S., McNeill, Z., Hodge, R., & Johnson, J. (2024, January 18). *Miscarriages in Gaza have skyrocketed by 300 percent under Israel's siege*. Truthout.

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RFK Jr. Returns to UVA Law for "Fireside Chat"

Andrew Allard '25
Executive Editor



While Harvard may have the Obamas, we at UVA have the Kennedys. "You've all heard of his family," the emcee announced as music blared. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. '82 strolled on stage, greeted by Alexander Szarka '24. I had been sitting next to a UVA Law alumnus from the class of '76. "He's late," he grumbled to an usher. "It's not good to make the electorate wait. That doesn't make him more important." The alum told me that he doesn't think much of Kennedy, but he had made the drive from Richmond "for the history."

For Kennedy, history is a comfortable topic. Szarka rattled off a list of the Kennedy family's historic ties to the Law School, pointing out the law library's shrine to Kennedy's father, Robert Francis "Bobby" Kennedy '51, and his uncle Edward Moore "Ted" Kennedy '59's Lile Moot Court championship title. Kennedy cheerfully responded with a lengthy tale of his father's efforts to invite Ralph Bunche, the first Black Nobel laureate, to speak at the Law School.

Virginia state law in 1951 required public events to be segregated, but the senior Kennedy fought successfully to get Bunche before a desegregated audience.

Twenty minutes in, Szarka appeared poised to throw Kennedy a hardball. "I just want to respectfully disagree, because you talked about how the moral leadership of your uncle [John F. Kennedy] and your father was the supreme achievement of the administration. I think that that's very important, but I would say that the supreme achievement of the Kennedy administration was averting nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis."

Though beginning with a disclaimer that this was not a campaign event, much of the interview was dedicated to praising Kennedy's legacy and expounding upon his policy views. The event was dubbed a "Fireside Chat" by the Student Bar Association. Szarka compared Kennedy's frequent appearances on podcasts with FDR's use of radio and Trump's use of X (formerly known as Twitter). Kennedy welcomed the comparison. "I think this election will be the first election that will be heavily in-



Pictured: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Photo Credit: Kennedy24.com

fluenced, if not decided, by podcasts."

Bouncing from his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, to the war in Gaza, to claims that "deputies of Fauci" are profiting from mRNA vaccines, Kennedy was happy to steer the conversation toward controversy. For many supporters, Kennedy's unfiltered style is no doubt part of his appeal. It's also an essential aspect of his politics. Asked about the recent resignation of UPenn president, Liz Magill '95, Kennedy said that universities ought to be havens for free speech. "We ought to be able to all talk. And that's critical for democracy."

Kennedy's strong pro-speech stance has not saved him from bad blood with the press. He explained that he turned to podcasts because he had been snubbed by TV news. "For years, I've not been allowed on the mainstream media, and to this

day, they will not allow me to do a live interview. The first one I'm ever going to do is tomorrow morning with Michael Smerconish." In recent months, Kennedy has appeared on the PBS NewsHour¹ and CNN.² But Kennedy said that these were live-to-tape interviews. "Live-to-tape means that they can cut you afterwards, which is what they always do."

Despite the alleged media blackout, Kennedy claimed that he's polling quite well, saying that he was leading among Americans forty-five and under in battleground states and for people under thirty-five years old. "And I'm trouncing President Trump and President Biden among the independents, which this year for the first time will be the largest party." While early presidential polling numbers tend to be dynamic, Kennedy's favorability rating is among the highest at 52 percent, ac-

¹ PBS NewsHour, *WATCH: RFK Jr. on abortion, immigration*, YouTube (Nov. 7, 2023)

² CNN, *CNN anchor confronts RFK Jr. by replaying his comments on vaccines*, YouTube (Dec. 15, 2023)

ording to Gallup.³ But recent national polling data shows Kennedy trailing Biden and Trump at 12 percent.⁴

Kennedy said that he believes his support for affordable housing has caught young voters' attention. "I think I'm doing well with those groups because I'm talking about issues that particularly concern young people. I'm the only one talking about how to get young people into houses."

But if Kennedy's strategy is to capture the youth vote, then his stance on Israel-Palestine could be a problem. While Americans under thirty-five tend to have greater sympathy for Palestinians,⁵ Kennedy downplayed the war in Gaza. "All of this stuff about Israel being an apartheid

³ Lydia Saad, *Biden and Trump Evenly Matched in U.S. Favorable Ratings*, Gallup (Jan. 9, 2024)

⁴ Matt Holt, *Messenger Poll: Trump Leads Biden by Seven Points (Exclusive)*, The Messenger (Jan. 24, 2024)

⁵ Brittany Gibson, *The generational divide over Israel and Palestine is widening*, Politico (Nov. 16, 2023)

RFK page 5

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

Andrew Allard '25

v.

Editorial Board of the Virginia Law Weekly
76 U.Va 12 (2023)

ALLARD, J., delivers the opinion of the court. COLEMAN, J. concurs in the judgment. SANDU, J. dissents in part, concurs in the judgment.

Summary of Facts

Justice Garrett Coleman '25 and Justice Andrew Allard '25 are, ostensibly, writers for the *Virginia Law Weekly*. On January 15, 2024, the Student Bar Association sent out an email informing students that one Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. would be speaking at the Law School in the first week of the spring semester. Given Mr. Kennedy's reputation as a wise and eloquent speaker, Coleman and Allard recognized the likelihood that the event would be a breaking story in the *Law Weekly's* first issue of the semester. Both reporters submitted RSVPs to attend the event with the intent to cover it. The record does not reveal who submitted their RSVP first, but both parties have maintained that it was "totally me."

Shortly before the first *Law Weekly* meeting of the semester, Coleman, in an act familiar to anyone with siblings, invoked dibs on the RFK story in a text message to the *Law Weekly* Editorial Board, noting that "The gods made this event for the *Law Weekly*." "Dammit," Allard replied. This action to quiet title followed.

I.

A. The Court of Petty Appeals may properly exercise original jurisdiction in this case.

In addition to its well-recognized jurisdiction over all petty matters related to the Law School,¹ the Court of Petty Appeals also possesses and regularly exercises original jurisdiction over all petty disputes between editors of the *Law Weekly* and cases raising

yet been published. We will not address this argument because it is irrelevant. As has been REPEATEDLY PROVEN by SCIENCE, time is not real.³ We are thus no less justified in intervening "now," if there even is such a thing.

II

A. The Law Weekly Editorial Board must recognize an editor's bona fide claim for dibs.

Allard seeks declaratory

right to dibs. We agree.

This Court has recognized that "[o]ur constitutional order was fundamentally changed when the Honor System was established in 1842."⁴ Somehow, this means that the Court can discover rights implied by historical vibes "as if they were explicitly granted rights."⁵ Under this predictable and principled formula, we find that the *Law Weekly* constitution protects dibs.

liberty. To fail to recognize the rights of the dibor would plunge the *Law Weekly* into a Rousseauvian post-property dystopia. We decline to take that path.

B. An editor who calls dibs on a story may assert exclusive rights to the same if he gives reasonable notice of his claim.

Allard next argues that, even if the *Law Weekly* constitution recognizes a right to call dibs, dibs can only be called in-person during the *Law Weekly's* meeting to assign articles. We find Allard's arguments unavailing. Instead, we are persuaded by Coleman that dibs are effective upon a showing of reasonable notice.

Because the right to call dibs attaches to all abandoned and unclaimed property, a claim for dibs is analogous to ownership by first possession. This Court will uphold a dibs claim to the extent that other potentially interested parties had notice of the dibs. Here, it is undisputed that the dibor provided such notice. The Editorial Board, whose members are responsible for the assign-

"This Court will uphold a dibs claim to the extent that other potentially interested parties had notice of the dibs."

Law Weekly constitutional questions.² Because an editor of the *Law Weekly* has sued the Editorial Board, we are obliged to hear this case, however desperate and frivolous it may be.

B. The issue of ripeness is irrelevant to the present case and perhaps all cases in the Court of Petty Appeals.

Justice Sandu raises the possibility that this case should be dismissed on ripeness grounds because Coleman's article has not

and injunctive relief nullifying Coleman's dibs claim, declaring Allard's superior title to the RFK event, and preventing Coleman from publishing his "really poorly written and frankly offensive" article about the same. Allard argues in his complaint that the *Law Weekly* Constitution contains no "dibs" clause, and thus no right to dibs can be claimed by editors or enforced by the Editorial Board. Coleman responds that the *Law Weekly* constitution protects an editor's right to call dibs on any story that may appear in a future issue. Coleman does not contest that dibs are absent from the text of the *Law Weekly* constitution but argues that substantive honor protects a

Respect for the exclusive rights of dibors dates back to the late 17th century. By 1915, it had developed into a customary right in the United States.⁶ It is today recognized by all civilized nations as essential to ordered

⁴ *Students for Fair Socialization v. Student Bar Association*, 76 U.Va 2 (2023).

⁵ See *id.* (recognizing law students' fundamental rights to inebriation and socialization).

⁶ See *Dibs*, Online Etymology Dictionary (Aug. 15, 2018).

¹ See *Virginia v. Harvard Law Review Ass'n*, 76 U.Va 6 (2023).

² See *Gay Section H Law Weekly Staff v. Lake* (Lake, C.J., concurring) ("There is certainly precedent for belligerent and underappreciated Justices suing the Chief Justice . . .").

³ See generally the years 2020 through 2022.

COPA page 5

Faculty Quotes

J. Harrison: "Read the parts of the cases which get edited out of the casebook, like the important parts of *Marbury v. Madison*."

A. Coughlin: "Sarah Davies has since colonized that wing of the Law School. It's like an empire."

C. Nicoletti: "I hate to interrupt us, but there are donuts."

J. Harrison: "When does the add/drop period end? I can't drop."

T. Nachbar: "I'm not sure why equality matters."

P. Oglesby: "Where do you buy weed?"

B. Sachs: "You might have to speak up a little bit. There's a lawnmower, like, inside the room."

C. Nicoletti: "The *Slaughterhouse Cases*. You know it, you hate it."

A. Coughlin, on children: "They're imps! They're ids!"


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

J. Harrison: "The god Zeus, or whoever, is judgment-proof."

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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 ment of articles, was notified of Coleman’s dibs claim to the story. That alone is sufficient.

C. Allard’s adverse possession claim to the RFK story is meritless, and it really suggests that he should retake Property.

Allard lastly argues that, even conceding that Coleman has some dibs right to the RFK story, Allard has superior title arising from his adverse possession of the story. Allard avers that he “camp[ed] outside of Caplin Auditorium for twenty-four hours in advance of the event” and argues that this was sufficient to extinguish Coleman’s rights as dibor.

We reject Allard’s argument because it makes zero sense. First of all, how do you adversely possess a story? There is no exclusive physical space that can be occupied to initiate a claim for adverse possession, save for the as yet nonexistent pages in which the article will eventually be published. Second, even if one could adversely possess a story, Allard has not identified a single case recognizing

twenty-four hours as a period sufficient to claim adverse possession.⁷

While there may be circumstances in which a claim for dibs can be extinguished, for example due to the dibor’s failure to timely assert his rights, we decline to specify such circumstances here because the plaintiff has so utterly failed to make a case for doing so. Accordingly, defendant Coleman’s motion to dismiss is *granted*.

Coleman, J., concurring in the judgment.

As this Court is without a formal code of ethics, I of course rule in favor of myself. But Judge Allard, while noble in his commitment to neutrality, erred in reasoning against himself as a litigant. This case does not fall under my esteemed substantive honor analysis. Rather, the answer is found in ancient principles of property law, most notably the public trust doctrine.

It is well established that certain natural resources

⁷ Even Allard’s claim that he camped out of for even twenty-four hours is dubious, given testimony that he was seen being chased away from the auditorium by security early in the morning of the event.

are owned by the sovereign “for the common use of all the people.” *Matthews v. Bay Head Improv. Assoc.*, 95 N.J. 306, 316 (N.J. 1984). The same is true of news stories. Our sovereign, Chief Justice of this Court and Editor-in-Chief of our paper, lays original claim to all news, future and past. But he or she must preserve those stories for common and beneficial use by the writers of this paper.

In this case, RFK Jr. is “the air, running water, [and] sea.” *Id.* In his capacity as sovereign, Chief Justice Morse chose to respect my dibs over the story, as having a single author is necessary for its beneficial use. Equally within his sovereign capacity, Chief Justice Morse could have disregarded my claim as dibor. This “news-in-trust doctrine” should help to resolve future disputes because it holds that the Editor-in-Chief wields near total control over the disposition of news stories.

Sandu, J. dissenting in part, concurring in the judgment.

I write a separate opinion to address my view on the issues of ripeness and mootness, in light of the fact that

we mere mortals are bound by the limitations of linear time, regardless of if, as my colleagues appear to hold, “time is not real.”

With regards to ripeness, at the time the purported “dibs” were called, the event in question, although scheduled, had not yet taken place. Nothing would have precluded both parties from attending the talk and both writing articles, after which there could be a fair comparison between the two pieces, with the Court ultimately deciding which one to print. At the time the dibs fight occurred, therefore, the issue was not yet ripe for adjudication, as it “rest[ed] upon contingent future events that may not occur as anticipated, or indeed may not occur at all.”⁸

Furthermore, with regards to mootness, the case is no longer in controversy because we have already printed the article in question, only one page prior to the issuing of this opinion. No remedy funnier than this could possibly be granted by this Court.

⁸ *Texas v. United States*, 523 U.S. 296, 300 (1998) (internal quotations omitted).

RFK

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 state is propaganda. Israel has no apartheid goals . . . If you’re a Palestinian, and you want to criticize your government, [then] you’d better be in Israel. You can do it without any recourse. If you do it in Gaza, you’ll have your throat slit. If you do it in the West Bank, you’ll be jailed and tortured.”

Szarka, shifting in his chair, asked Kennedy to “focus a little bit more on the American perspective.” Kennedy demurred. “Why is there a concentration camp? Because Israel put a fence there to keep Hamas from sending terrorists across to kill its people. What country wouldn’t?”

Before leaving, I asked the alum sitting next to me if it was worth the drive from Richmond. “I learned a lot,” he replied.



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HOT BENCH



Dean Leslie Kendrick '06
 Interviewed by Noah Coco '26

What’s your favorite thing about UVA Law?

Hands down, the people.

What were you like as a law student?

I was nervous my first semester, thinking, “Am I even doing this right?” and then I remember having a great time. I studied, got involved with student orgs, and hung out with Micah and my friends. Pretty typical

UVA Law—very substantive and very fun.

I remember you studied English at Oxford—what are three non-legal books you’d recommend to law students?

People treat classics with a reverence that implies they must be unenjoyable, but don’t be fooled. Give one of these a try:

Moby Dick—My favorite novel. Workplace drama, complete with crazed boss and cantankerous employees, that happens to be on a ship.

Middlemarch—It is about how people become who they are. Instead of a last book, catch a play at the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton. It is the world’s only replica of Shakespeare’s indoor theater.

What was your

favorite class while a law student, and what was your favorite class to teach?

I loved all my classes, but Tort Theory changed my life. It was taught by Ken Abraham and Vince Blasi. Students included Professors Schwartzman and Barzun, and Judge Dan Bress, among other superstars. I can’t choose one class that is my favorite to teach; they are all my favorites.

What are you most excited about in your new role as Dean?

I love this place, so the thought of helping steward it into the future is what makes me the happiest.

Favorite spot in Charlottesville?

I like to be outside where I can see water or hills. Charlottesville

and Virginia are good for that. In terms of everyday places, I like to be at the city parks and pools with my kids, who are all on the city swim team (Go Swordfish).

Favorite food and favorite dessert (they of course can be the same!)?

Too many to count, but here are some grab-and-go Cville favorites:

- The Birdwood sandwich at Bellair Market
- Spicy Senegalese peanut tofu soup at Revolutionary Soup
- Chicken cheddar fig sandwich at Feast
- Currant scones, challah, and princess cake at Albemarle Baking Company

Do you have any pets? If so, what animals are they/what are their names?

My daughter just got a hamster. While she’s

working on a name, we are calling him Little Dude.

Trivia category you’d be surprisingly good at?

Popular Music, c. 1955-2005.

Anything you’d like UVA Law students to know about you that they likely don’t already know?

These answers notwithstanding, I generally don’t talk about myself much! I’d rather focus on you and the professionals you are becoming. This institution is special because of the effort you make to treat each other humanely, even in stressful times. Thank you for that. It’s one of the reasons I would rather be here than anyplace else in the world.

LEGACY

continued from page 1 and classes, and friend groups he is a part of . . . through his example he sets kindness, wisdom, and encouragement above all else and shares those with everyone around him enabling everyone to become their best selves.”

Hudson was recognized for his contributions and service to the University as chapter president of the Black Law Student Association, member of the Virginia Environmental Law Journal, fellow for the Center for the Study of Race and Law, admissions ambassador with the Office of Admissions, member of the Law School Curriculum Committee, member of the Raven Society, and member of the Student Advisory Group with the national Law School Admissions Council. Hudson is also a 2023-24 Ritter Scholar, which recognizes third-year law students who “best exemplify the qualities of honor, character, and integrity.” During his acceptance speech, Hudson thanked the University for the award and acknowledged how his accomplishments are the result of the support he has received

from others.

“A person’s character is a direct reflection of the people that they share proximity to. As my great-grandfather would say, I have been fortunate to share proximity to ‘tall timber’ during my time at UVA Law and during my life generally,” Hudson said. “Let us not look favorably on the mentorship that I have enacted without acknowledging the mentorship that I have received from the many great professors, faculty, and peers here at UVA.”

Following the presentation of the Swanson award, Robinson introduced keynote speaker, Blake D. Morant. Morant is the Robert Kramer Research Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School. Additionally, Morant is the former dean of George Washington University Law School and Wake Forest University School of Law, where he was the first Black person to serve as dean at both institutions.

During his lecture, Dean Morant recounted significant facets and moments of Dr. King’s life and explored the context surrounding them. He argued Dr. King’s upbringing in the Black Baptist church, educational

background in philosophy, and belief in natural law were very influential on his beliefs in racial justice and equality.

Additionally, Dean Morant argued Dr. King knew the effect of context on the persuasiveness of messaging and tailored the delivery of his messages to particular audiences. To illustrate, Dean Morant examined Dr. King’s famous “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” where King addressed the white clergy who criticized him for protesting in violation of a court order, invoking Saint Augustine: “An unjust law is no law at all.”

Dean Morant also discussed how context impacted Dr. King’s messaging when he delivered a speech at the University’s own Old Cabell Hall in 1963. To begin the story, Morant described the circumstances leading up to Dr. King’s visit, including the origins of the group that invited the famous civil rights leader to Grounds.

“In the early ‘60s, the University of Virginia and many non-HBCU universities across the country were largely segregated and had very few students of color in attendance,” Morant said. “In 1963, however, several African American students

attended the University [of Virginia], one by the name of Wesley Harris . . . after experiencing disparate treatment in academic programming, Harris, fewer than twelve other African American students, and a number of white students formed the Thomas Jefferson Virginia Council on Human Relations.”

Morant explained that the Council’s goal was to create safe spaces for students of color on Grounds and sponsor events to discuss the impact of social issues on the University and greater Charlottesville community. The Council would meet to study Dr. King’s philosophy, and one day, on behalf of the group, Harris sent a letter to Dr. King inviting him to speak, which Dr. King accepted. Morant noted Dr. King’s appearance at the University subverted the Council’s expectations.

“Wesley Harris and many others in attendance expected Dr. King . . . to deliver a stern sermon on the evils of segregation and the importance of racial equality and unity,” Morant said. “Much to everybody’s surprise, King offered a scholarly lecture on the meaning of democracy and the duty

to adhere to fundamental principles of equality. Aware of the scholarly context of the University, Dr. King adapted his style of oratory to fit the academic setting to which he was addressing.”

Dean Morant argues that everyone engaged in the modern effort for social justice should continue Dr. King’s mission of spreading the philosophy of equality. Dean Morant further argues that the legal community must acknowledge how context impacts the law and legal outcomes in order to earnestly aid in the fight for equality.

“The lack of inclusion in society delegitimizes societal institutions that hold our democracy together,” Dean Morant said. “Society functions best when all classes of citizens have a seat at the decisional table and have access to competent legal representation that recognize that context shapes the law we study and implement.”

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PALESTINE

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My jidu chopped down the palm tree in his garden to see its heart and its core and to share them with others, knowing that this tree would grow back because he would nurture and tend to it. Right now, I am asking you to perform a similar act of labor and of nurturing: I ask you to cut through some of the defensive tissue that might be preventing you from thinking about, talking about, and advocating for Palestine. Getting to the heart of this can only be done through love, curiosity, and humanity. It will at first feel strange, but it will also feel exciting, and when we tend to each other during our collective regrowth, we will be a taller and greater force than ever before.



*Pictured: Gregory H. Swanson consults with Assistant Law Dean Charles Woltz after registration at UVA on September 15, 1950
Photo and Caption Credit: UVA Law*

REORIENTATION

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the second semester of law school to be much more challenging; much of 1L fall is laid out for you, whereas the spring semester is the first chance to truly make UVA Law “yours.” This is exciting to be sure, but scary—how can anyone, after just four months of study, know what paths to start taking and which ones to leave temporarily unexplored?

To that, I say: Please lean on the 2Ls and 3Ls around you. Law students are narcissists who love to talk about themselves, including

their study strategies, favorite professors, relaxation techniques, and everything in between. I feel so grateful to the upperclassman who helped me navigate the spring last year, and I don’t know a single 2L who doesn’t relish the opportunity now to repay the favor. So please—let us help you, whether it be over coffee, or through a reassuring email, or whatever makes the next several months feel less stressful to you.

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