



VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

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

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Wednesday, 12 April 2023

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

Volume 75, Number 22

Apartheid Week at UVA Law

Catie Haddad '25
Guest Editor

This week, the National Lawyers Guild at UVA is hosting the Law School's first ever Apartheid Week. The event, cosponsored by the undergraduate organizations Students for Justice in Palestine and Dissenters, is part of an international effort to bring awareness to Israel's illegal apartheid regime against Palestinians. At UVA Law specifically, Apartheid Week represents a recognition that our school is currently not doing enough to educate on and condemn regimes that are committing international human rights violations. Moreover, it is a statement that students at UVA Law refuse to continue allowing our school to normalize Israeli Apartheid.

At this point in history, several human rights organizations have recognized Israel's occupation of Palestinian land and brutalization of Palestinians as apartheid (these include Amnesty International,¹ Human Rights Watch,² and the United Nations,³ among others). However, there is nothing novel about Israeli apartheid. Not only has it continued since the mid-20th century, but it replicates fundamental tropes of settler colonialism: a settler entity slowly and increasingly encroaching on and taking land, falsely claiming that the land being dispossessed is empty or inhabited by a

¹ *Israel's apartheid against Palestinians*, Amnesty International (2022), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid>.

² Omar Shakir, Hum. Rts. Watch, *A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution* (Eric Goldstein et al eds., 2021), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>.

³ Press Release, United Nations, 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), <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/special-rapporteur-on-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-opt-israel-has-imposed-upon-palestine-an-apartheid-reality-in-a-post-apartheid-world-press-release>.

Rain or Shine, Softball Goes On



Pictured: UVA Law Presents \$35,000 Donation to ReadyKids (Photo Credits: UVA Law NGSL)

Jackson Grubbe '23
Staff Editor

Jack Brown '23
Sports Editor

On March 31, over 1,000 law students from thirty-seven different law schools descended on Charlottesville for the annual UVA Law Softball Invitational. The tournament, celebrating its 40th iteration this year, donates its proceeds to ReadyKids, a local charity in Charlottesville that provides educational and counseling services to low-income children and their families. It also is a highlight of many law schools' social calendars, with parties on Friday and Saturday night happening at some of Charlottesville's most exclusive locations (mostly Bilt and Crozet, though we did get Rapture this year to appease New York students looking for a club atmosphere). Despite some challenges, this year's tournament was a massive success, with \$35,000 donated to ReadyKids—a \$10,000 increase from the record set last year.

The tournament has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1983. Originally conceived by Tom McNeill '84, Bob Stewart '85, and Bob Battle at a bar over winter break, the first tournament had twelve schools send teams. UVA students volunteered to house the visitors for the weekend. The first tournament was so successful that it became an annual event, with teams from all over the country traveling to Charlottesville to take part.

For the first two decades,

the tournament was mainly a recreational event for law students to play softball, party, and hopefully escape the never-ending conversations around black letter law that seemed to follow them everywhere they congregated. The tournament began to have a charitable element in 2000 when Elizabeth "Buffie" Scott, the wife of then-Dean Robert E. Scott, advocated for the tournament to make a donation to ReadyKids. Mrs. Scott was a member of the organization's board of directors and believed that the North Grounds Softball League (NGSL)—the group that organizes the tournament—could help ReadyKids provide even greater support to families in the Charlottesville community. Since the partnership began, NGSL has raised over \$400,000 for ReadyKids, with a minimum of \$20,000 going to the charity for the last fourteen years, excluding 2021's pandemic-limited tournament.

At times, the tournament has boasted over 110 teams competing in three different brackets. The only thing that could stop the tournament was the COVID-19 pandemic, which canceled the 2020 Invitational and threatened to end the tradition because no students had seen how the event was supposed to run. In 2021, NGSL hosted a small, internal tournament to keep the tradition alive and donate to ReadyKids, but the invitational was nowhere near its previous size.


The thirty-ninth tournament the following year was


a return to form thanks to the hard work of Alex Castle '22, Christina Kelly '22, and Eric Feldman '22, who used old documents to revive the tournament and donate a then-record \$25,000 to ReadyKids. Their work helped keep this incredible tradition alive when it so easily could have faded away as an understandable victim of the pandemic.


A streak possibly more improbable than the tournament's forty-year survival is—its fifteen-year streak of good weather. That streak ended this year, with unexpectedly-heavy showers rendering all city and county fields unusable on Saturday. After receiving news at 10 a.m. that the rain delays would become cancellations, the tournament team rose to the challenge and recreated the tournament bracket to get games started by 11 a.m. Tireless work by the UVA Grounds crew, field monitor volunteers, and tournament committee heads helped keep the tournament on track despite Mother Nature's best efforts.


Once the skies cleared up on Saturday afternoon, it was business as usual, with last year's runner-up, the FSU Alumni team, winning the Open Bracket, and UVA's own Co-Rec Gold team defending their title in a much more competitive Co-Rec Bracket than last year. (The Co-Rec Bracket requires at least three non-male-identifying players to play in the field, whereas the Open Bracket has no such rule.)


around north grounds


 Thumbs up to Student Affairs' treat-filled Easter Eggs. ANG is pleased the University read ANG's previous comment about hoarding candy like a squirrel and took action to make it happen.


 Thumbs down to Disney's usage of the Rule Against Perpetuities. ANG could have sworn that RAP would never come up in public discourse, but now all ANG's non-lawyer friends are asking about it, and ANG has to just mumble something noncommittal.


 Thumbs up to the pollen everywhere. As a non-allergy sufferer, ANG delights to see the misery of others.


 Cheers to Julia D'Rozario '24 and Darius Adel '24 on one year of blissful membership on the *Law Weekly* (and, coincidentally, their one-year dating anniversary.)

 Thumbs up to the 3L yearbook. ANG is delighted to publicly see which 3Ls have no friends.

 Thumbs down to the NGSL Softball Tournament continuing despite the rain. ANG loves to squirm like a worm when the grass is wet but was unable to do so with so many students around.

 Thumbs sideways to April Fools Day. ANG loves tomfoolery but hates having other people be funnier than ANG.

 Thumbs up to Donald J. Trump, who is looking more and more like one of ANG's personal heroes, Eugene V. Debs, who ran for president from prison.

 Thumbs down to the Darden Inn being completed. ANG is going to miss all of the construction rubble and open wires—they were the happiest playground ANG has ever known.

Eastern Europe's Easter Eggs

Monica Sandu '24
Production Editor



Pysanky.¹
Ouă încondeiate. *Hímestojás*.
Margutis.

They go by many names, but elaborately decorated Easter eggs are a time-honored tradition throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

History

Decorating eggs is an ancient art form. Fragments of 60,000-year-old painted eggshells have been found in rock shelters in Namaqualand, South Africa.² Painted ostrich eggs, along with gold and silver egg representations, were common in Sumerian and Egyptian graves as early as 5,000 years ago.³

1 In many Slavic languages, the term (*pysanky* in Ukrainian, *pisanka* in Croatian, *pisanka* in Polish, etc.) comes from the Old Slavonic word “*ꙗcamu*” (*pisati*), meaning “to write.” This is because Christian iconographic tradition often refers to the creation of religious art as “writing,” rather than painting, due to the narrative content of the work, as well as the spiritual process involved.

2 Brian Stewart, *Egg Cetera #6: Hunting for the world's oldest decorated eggs*, Univ. of Cambridge (Apr. 10, 2012), <https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/egg-cetera-6-hunting-for-the-worlds-oldest-decorated-eggs>.

3 Easter Egg, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_egg.

Some sources trace the custom of egg dying to Persian Nowruz traditions adopted by early Christians in Mesopotamia, which then became adopted with the spread of Christianity.⁴ It may have also coincided with existing pre-Christian traditions throughout Europe.⁵ Eggs were a common symbol of fertility and rebirth, tying into springtime celebrations and the new year generally, as well as the Christian celebration of the Resurrection during Easter.⁶

Technique⁷

Two types of Easter eggs are typically prepared. The dyed eggs are hard-boiled eggs that are then soaked in vinegar and dyed to stain the shells; these are intended to be cracked and eaten. In contrast, the decorated eggs, which involve elaborate designs on hollowed-out eggshells, are aesthetic and contain lots of

4 *Id.*; 8 Kenneth Thompson, *Culture and Progress: Early Sociology of Culture* (The Making of Sociology) 138 (1st ed. 2003).

5 *Egg decorating in Slavic culture*, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egg_decorating_in_Slavic_culture.

6 Victoria Williams, *Celebrating Life Customs Around the World* (2016).

7 Unica, *How to Paint Easter Eggs*, YouTube (May 18, 2011), <https://youtu.be/JdGMOjAXvHc>.



Pictured: Traditional Romanian Easter Eggs (Ouă încondeiate)
Photo Credit: <https://cultivaprofitabil.ro/oua-incondeiate-cele-mai-frumose-modele-facute-de-mestri-populari/>

cultural and religious symbolism.

The process begins by hollowing out the egg. A fresh, raw egg is washed and dried. A thin needle is gently worked into each end of the egg until a small hole is made on either side. The needle is then inserted into the egg to break up the yolk inside. Finally, the artist will gently blow into one end of the egg until all of the egg's contents come out, leaving behind only an intact eggshell. From there, the decorating can begin.

The most common method of preparing decorated eggs is through a series of wax-resist drawings.⁸ First, the artisan dips a thin brush made of wire and a single boar bristle into hot, melted beeswax and

8 On Wednesday, August 4, the Orthodox Christian Law Student Association hosted a workshop, exploring the lesser-known technique of using Sharpie on plastic eggs.

draws the parts of the design that they wish to have in white. Once the wax dries, the egg is dipped in the lightest-color dye in the pattern, typically yellow. The wax prevents the dye from sticking to the covered portion, so lines drawn in wax will show up white. The artisan next draws the parts of the design that are to remain yellow and then dips the egg in another color of dye, such as red. The process repeats for each progressively darker color in the design until the egg is complete. Once all of the dye is dry, the wax resist is melted or scraped away, leaving behind the elaborate design made up of layers of dye.

An alternative method, typically used on wooden eggs or statuettes, rather than eggshells themselves, is directly painting the designs. However, this method is not usually called *pysanky*, which is defined by the wax-resist technique. The eggs made using

this alternative method can also be decorated with beads or, as in the case of the famed Fabergé eggs, gold and precious gems.

One of the most unique styles of egg decorating involves natural plant stencils. A small leaf or flower is tied to an egg or placed with an egg in a transparent cloth. The two are then boiled together with onion skins, which dye the egg a dark red-brown color. The leaf is then peeled away to reveal its imprint on the shell.

Motifs and Symbolism

Traditional Orthodox Easter eggs, both those meant for eating and those that are decorative, are dyed red, symbolic of the blood of Christ. Similarly, decorated eggs are usually black, red, and gold, though blues and greens are also sometimes used, invoking death and rebirth simultaneously.

Designs are primarily geometric, ranging from the simple to the intricate, though stylized flowers and other plant life are also very common and celebrate the life that returns to the world in springtime. Religious symbols, such as crosses, may also be included.

A combination of religious artwork and decorative folkcraft, Easter eggs are a living tradition celebrated around the world.

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Gerri Kellman: TV's Favorite LawHoo

Devon Chenelle '23
Prose Style Editor



TV's hottest show is the HBO prestige drama/dark comedy *Succession*. The show depicts the trials and tribulations of one extraordinarily wealthy family, the Roys, as the family's next generation struggles amongst themselves and against their father, Logan, to seize control of the family business, Waystar Royco, a media conglomerate modeled after NewsCorp (formerly the parent company of Fox News).

I find the show compelling and hilarious viewing; when members of the Roy family shout commands at their personal bankers and attorneys, I giggle, imagining those commands working their way down from the in-house employees, to the BigLaw relationship partner, until it ultimately culminates in future versions of ourselves scrambling to fulfill their wishes as associates.

My most beloved aspect of *Succession* has to be that the show's best character—Gerri Kellman, Waystar Royco's General Counsel—is very obviously an alumna of our own beloved UVA Law. Although the specifics of her legal education are not discussed in the show, a variety of hints, innuendos, and aspects of her characterization make it clear that this particular fine advocate

could not have received her J.D. anywhere but Charlottesville.

To begin with, Gerri demonstrates the keen intelligence expected of a UVA Law graduate, without ever delving into the arcana of specific legal theories or running wild with the implications that obscure case law might hold for the Roy family's feverish bouts of mergers and acquisitions. This is strongly paralleled in the fashion that UVA Law graduates, while perhaps possessed of slightly lower undergraduate GPAs and LSAT scores than our lovely peers at Harvard, Yale, and Stanford, have a hard-nosed, realistic, and “can-do” attitude to our legal work that makes us such wonderful successes at the law firms we are employed at.

Although canonically she spent time as an assistant U.S. attorney, and thus doubtless has a masterful grasp of the ins-and-outs of securities law, Gerri knows that the right way to dissuade Logan from a potentially ill-advised acquisition is not through protracted discussion of the minutiae of Delaware corporate law or by reference to the Southern District of New York's treatment of previous actions that rested within a gray area of the 1934 Act. Instead, it is best to proceed through skillful diplomacy and the mustering of social coalitions to make sure the correct strategy prevails—a delicate operation well-known to anyone who has ever had to



Pictured: Former NLG President and Modern-Day Corporate Raider, Gerri Kellman
Photo Credit: Peter Kramer, British Vogue

assemble a softball team here.

Similarly, Gerri is a profoundly socially adroit individual and is able to employ all of her social wiles to make sure both her own best interests and those of Waystar Royco prevail at all times. Although our institution's frequent and varied social events—from softball, to Feb Club, to Barrister's Ball, and so many in between—surely exist to provide us a much-needed release valve from the at-times intense law school environment and to offer us a chance to socialize with our peers outside of the nooks and crannies of the Law Library, I suspect another significant reason for the Law School's absolutely jam-packed social calendar is that it conditions us for the demands of law firm, and even-

tually in-house, life. Having to make polite chitter-chatter with that one section-mate you don't quite connect with at weekly softball games is fantastic practice for the need to be on, at worst, cordial terms with all of the people you work with, and I find that Gerri's deft social maneuverings in the viper's nest of Waystar Royco is evidence of the social conditioning she received in spades at UVA Law.

Could a graduate of any other law school have dealt with the treatment Gerri receives (which ranges from impolite to, at times, downright criminal) at the hands of the Roy family with so much grace and aplomb that she remains not only firmly ensconced within the company's leadership but also a trusted advisor

to all? Similarly, could a graduate of any other law school survive, without the training of Feb Club, the Roy family's chaotic, never-ending, and frequently alcohol-soaked social calendar? I think not.

Finally, although—as a man—the extent to which I can speak to this is limited, I find that Gerri represents the vigor, strength, and intelligence so typical of my female classmates. While I, like many of my male classmates, have a rather high opinion of myself, I must acknowledge my womanly classmates to be on the whole rather more impressive than myself. As I personally find the women of UVA Law to represent the best of this institution, so does Gerri Kellman.

I hope I have convinced you. If not, you will have to tune in and see for yourself. The new—and final—season of *Succession* is airing weekly on HBO, Sundays at 9 p.m.

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Law Weekly's Favorite Finals Food

The seasonal flurry of studying and long library sessions is upon us. The pre-finals marathon tends to exacerbate the already pressing need among burnt-out, impoverished law students for a quick, inexpensive, and, most importantly, satisfying meal. To make matters worse, our classmates all become too busy studying to plan the “lunch provided” events that we all know and love. We hear you, and we’re here to help. We have painstakingly recorded the recipes for our favorite lazy weeknight dinners—think low cost and high flavor-to-effort ratio. From hearty chili to vegan stir-fry, these recipes will give you the fuel you need to crush this finals season—or at least some culinary inspiration, if you’re more of a gourmet than a gunner.

Andrew’s (Stolen) Riff on Box Mac & Cheese

- 1 box of Annie’s Shells & White Cheddar Mac and Cheese
- 1 cup of frozen peas
- Chili crisp, to taste

This has been my go-to lazy meal since early in the pandemic when I was desperate for new cooking ideas. Just in time to treat my fomenting cabin fever, celebrity chef Samin Nosrat made a guest appearance on *Wait Wait...Don’t Tell Me!*¹ When asked about

1 Samin Nosrat—if you don’t al-

what she had been cooking for herself during quarantine, Nosrat said that she had recently made a box of Annie’s white cheddar mac and cheese with peas and chili crisp.

As a lover of all things carby, cheesy, and/or spicy, I thought I’d give it a try. Honestly? I have never been the same. I’m sure this sounds like an exaggeration. It is not. This simple variation adds maybe a minute or two of time to the usual eight minutes of work for boxed mac and cheese. What it adds in flavor? Immeasurable.

You can find Lao Gan Ma chili crisp in most grocery stores. Or if you want to be really extra, you could make your own.² And for those with Sam’s Club memberships, you can get a big ol’ twelve pack of Annie’s for just \$12.98. You could buy a different brand if you prefer, but don’t let me hear about it. I will judge you. Most of all, don’t skip the peas! You’ll need some veggies

ready know—is kind of a big deal. She is probably best known for her cookbook-turned-Netflix-series, *Salt Fat Acid Heat*. Her interview on *Wait Wait* is delightful. Please go listen to it. It’s the episode from April 11, 2020. Also, just want to acknowledge that I am a caricature of myself for sourcing my lazy meals from NPR.

2 This arguably takes the recipe outside of “lazy” territory, but you can make a big batch in advance and have it at the ready in the fridge. This really does elevate it. I like Sohla El-Wayly’s recipe in *Serious Eats*.

to pretend it’s healthy. This could probably feed two, but I highly recommend—as Nosrat herself prefers—eating the whole thing.

Ethan’s Tuna Pesto/Avocado Toast Duo

Toast is the world’s easiest and purest food, and zhuzhing it up is my go-to recipe in a pinch. This recipe combines lean protein, tasty herbs, and creamy avocado to make a satisfying meal with diverse flavor portfolios in each bite. And for someone like me, who often forgets that protein is a necessary component of a healthy diet because I subsist solely on coffee and tortilla chips, this one’s a game changer.

- One 12 oz. can of tuna in extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon pesto, preferably Kirkland brand
- 1 ripe avocado
- ½ tablespoon plain yogurt
- Everything bagel seasoning³
- 2 slices seeded bread
- Heaping handful of arugula, spinach, or other greenery (I’m partial to arugula just since it’s a little bitter)

First, toast the two slices of bread. (Or don’t, if you’re some sort of freak who likes cold bread.) Mix the tuna and pesto in a small bowl, and then

3 Or just black pepper, salt, garlic powder, and onion powder, if you lack the Trader Joe’s creation.

spread it on top of the bread. Avocado toast portion is next: Mash the avocado, mix in a little yogurt to make it creamy, and sprinkle in a liberal portion of seasoning to your liking. Spread it on top of the second piece. Then, put some arugula on top of both, and ta-da: a perfect mix of protein, fat, and carbohydrates that can do either as a snack or light meal.

Dana’s Grandma’s Famous Shrimp and Rice

This meal is the definition of easy comfort, while still incorporating a decent portion of veggies and protein. Don’t let the part where you have to blend the sauce scare you off—if you don’t have a stick blender and don’t want to get tomatoes in your margarita maker, you can just give everything a vigorous mashing with a wooden spoon. Trust me, it’s cathartic.

- Large yellow onion
- 1 large can whole tomatoes (San Marzano if possible)
- 3 green bell peppers
- Garlic (go with what your heart tells you is the right amount)
- 1 bag large frozen shrimp
- 1 can coconut milk
- Paprika (essential)/garlic powder/salt/pepper/bit of cayenne/whatever other seasonings feel right
- Rice

Chop your onion, garlic,

and peppers. Sauté the onion and peppers until they start softening up, then throw in the garlic and cook for another minute. Add the tomatoes and coconut milk. Bring to a simmer, and let it all cook together for at least thirty minutes, or until all the veggies are soft. Blend the whole thing into a smooth sauce, and let it keep simmering while you make the rice. Add your seasonings. When your rice is almost done, throw your frozen shrimp into the sauce, and let them cook through—you’ll know they’re ready when they are pink and curled slightly into a “C.” Plate it up, and enjoy.

“Pickles an’ Cheese” (possibly cursed)

This lazy meal was submitted to the *Law Weekly* by a student who is existing on a separate culinary plane. We’ll let the recipe speak for itself. Write us with a review if you try it (assuming you survive).

1. Slightly burn some American cheese on a skillet
2. Put pickles in the middle of the cheese
3. “Eat it like a tiny taco”

Chef’s note: “Why are you disgusted? It’s the same thing that’s on a cheeseburger.”

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Join the Rod and Gun Club!

Tom Harrigan '24
Guest Editor

This past weekend marked the beginning of spring turkey season in Virginia. Early Saturday morning, I and thousands of other Virginians made our annual pilgrimage to the woods in hopes of snaring a wily old gobbler. A typical morning of turkey hunting starts by waking up as your classmates are leaving Bilt, driving out to BFE, and hiking a few dark, lonely miles into the woods (flashlights scare the birds). Then, just find a nice high spot where you can hear a long ways away and make yourself comfortable. The rest of the morning is spent lying motionless, resisting the urge to swat mosquitos, and periodically cooing in the hopes of eliciting a gobble from one of the sexually frustrated dinosaurs that call Virginia home.

Turkeys have excellent sight and hearing, a combination which makes it functionally impossible to sneak up on them. Instead, hunters must rely on their ability to pinpoint the exact location of sound, in order to call them in by imitating the sound of an excited hen in hopes that the gobbler will come to them. Calling is both the most rewarding and the most frustrating part of the sport. Hen turkeys communicate using a wide vocabulary of sounds, each with a distinct meaning. Imitating these different sounds can allow a

hunter to open a dialogue with the male turkeys that can be remarkably complex, communicating mood, social status, stress level, and whether the hen is part of a group or alone. These exchanges can last up to hours and involve communicating with multiple birds simultaneously.

Because a turkey’s ability to locate the source of a sound made hours ago is so precise, I find that one of the most effective techniques is to accidentally fall asleep after calling out a few times. Napping prevents the two most common errors made by turkey hunters, over-calling and moving too much, and I seem to be able to exercise more self-control with free will out of the equation. After five or six hours of listening intently and accumulating a few ticks, it’s time to pack it up for the day. I don’t measure success in dead turkeys—mostly because I’m unwilling to admit to a level of failure not seen since Nikolai Morse '24 tried to play pool at Miller’s.¹ Instead, I opt to measure it in gobbles, a more favorable metric, because after a few hours of silence I start to imagine them, and as far as I’m concerned, those ghost-gobbles count.

Despite the early mornings, the bug bites, the failure rate, and the inconvenient coincidence with finals season, spring turkey season remains

1 Stick to *Law Review* office pool, Nikolai.



Photo Credit: Tom Harrigan '24



my favorite time of year. A Cajun best summed it up to me once, saying, “These birds ain’t smart, but they ain’t stupid neither.” The humbling experience of engaging in (and losing) a battle of wits with a bird, combined with the refreshing nature of disconnecting from the world and focusing yourself totally on a challenge in the outdoors, makes for a truly special experience.

You might be asking, Tom, how does an interested newcomer get into the turkey game? Well, I am just the right person to ask because unlike most turkey hunters, I didn’t grow up with it. I picked up the sport as an adult after developing an interest by watching the birds while working in Oklahoma. As an adult-onset hunter without a mentor, I was forced to learn through trial and error

and the internet—a tough way to get started in a sport with a steep learning curve. Fortunately, for UVA Law students there is a better way! The UVA Law Rod and Gun Club will be hosting informational sessions in the fall, providing mentorship and advice on how to take full advantage of the two million acres of public lands open to hunting in Virginia.

On behalf of the incoming board of the Rod and Gun Club, I’d like to extend an invitation to anyone and everyone who is interested in fishing, hunting, or outdoorsmanship generally. The mission of the Rod and Gun Club is to provide opportunities in the outdoors to law students of every background and experience level. Next year, our programming will include group fishing trips, shotgun sports,

rifle shooting, and more. Our intention is to provide a safe environment for people new to these sports to learn from their fellow students, create bonds, and hopefully find a new hobby. Our new board, composed of VPs Gamliel Yerushalmi '25 and Nikolai Morse '24, Treasurer Matt Turk '25, Fishing Chair Casey Crowley '24, and myself, has diverse experience in a variety of outdoor sports and is excited to share that experience. I encourage every law student to try and find time to come to one of our events. You never know—you may discover a lifelong passion.

Interested students should feel free to reach out to me at rsf5dy@virginia.edu.

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LAW WEEKLY FEATURE: Court of Petty Appeals

The Court of Petty Appeals is the highest appellate jurisdiction court at UVA Law. The Court has the power to review any and all decisions, conflicts, and disputes that arise involving, either directly, indirectly, or tangentially, the Law School or its students. The Court comprises eight associate justices and one Chief Justice. Opinions shall be released periodically and only in the official court reporter: the Virginia Law Weekly. Please email a brief summary of any and all conflicts to dl9uh@virginia.edu

Brief for Appellants in:

Students Overwhelmingly Hungry from Undue Nullification of Granted Reward Yums (SOHUNGRY)
v.
LexisNexis Rewards
75 U.Va. 22 (2023)

Prepared by Duncan Hardiman '25, counsel for Appellants

Summary of Facts

As the 2022–23 academic year began, the fresh, innocent, beaming faces of a new class of 1Ls filled the halls of UVA Law. As they took the first steps of their new legal careers, they faced the choice of which legal research database to use. To facilitate their decision, LexisNexis, one of the two major research platforms, offered a rewards system where students received points for their engagement with the platform to incentivize them to use it. These points could then be redeemed on the Lexis Rewards website for a variety of prizes, including gift cards, donations to charities, or even cryptocurrency. The points-to-dollars exchange rate for gift cards is 70 points per dollar. Throughout the course of the fall semester, students could receive 350 points for a visit to the Lexis Lab during “Office Hours” in the Library and 10 points for a search on Lexis. Other opportunities to earn points included attending seminars and table events and answering questions on the Lexis website. The points values for these varied from 100 to 700 points.

For many poor and hungry 1Ls, Lexis’s rewards program was a beacon of hope, whose promise of gift cards in exchange for points served as a salvation from impending starvation. 1Ls would visit the Lexis Lab daily to earn points

and cash them in for gift cards to places like Chipotle, Taco Bell, Starbucks, and other chain eateries in the Barracks Road Shopping Center. One visit to Office Hours earned a student enough points for a Taco Bell Cravings Trio®, and two visits could afford a student a chicken burrito at Chipotle. Both meal options provide up to 1,000 calories—half the required daily nutrition for a student. The Lexis Rewards system became an integral part of how many 1Ls would budget their weekly meals.

Then, Lexis got cold feet. In late October, Lexis lowered the number of points for a visit to Office Hours from 350 to 100. This lowered the potential amount for a student to earn in a week from \$20 to \$5.71. Students complained, but with crafty budgeting, students were able to ration their remaining points in hopes that things would return to normal in the spring. But Lexis refused to stop. In January, the research platform again restricted a student’s ability to earn points. As the spring semester began, the points were limited to one visit to Office Hours per week, worth 200 points, cutting potential earnings down to just \$2.85 per week. It would now take students seven weeks to earn what they had previously earned in just one. A glimmer of hope came in early February when Lexis increased the points for a weekly visit to 700. However, students were then informed that they could only receive the 700 points up to six times. Finally, after students returned from spring break, they were informed that there would be no more points for students at all for visiting Office Hours. There have since been no updates, and students continue to be left not only with empty hands, but with empty stomachs too.

Questions Presented

Whether the Court of Petty Appeals can find it in their hearts to take sympathy for the 1Ls who have developed a reliance on the Lexis Rewards points for sustenance and can formally recognize the wrongs committed against them.

Summary of Argument

While the Court is unable to offer any form of equitable relief to 1Ls and rarely finds in favor of 1Ls in any capacity, the Court has the opportunity to do so here, as the harm done to the 1Ls impacts the entire student body and community at large. It forces the 1Ls who developed a reliance on these points to look for other sources of free food at the cost of the greater Law School student body, causes more complaining from 1Ls that the whole school has to deal with, and deprives future 1Ls of the ability to receive nourishment from local fast food chains.

Argument

It is well-established precedent that it is the duty of this Court to “defend the right of citizens of UVA Law to a decent meal.”¹ So, if there is any infraction on the quantity or quality of food supplied to the students of UVA Law, or on “the rights of Law School students to use food as one of the few pleasures left to us in this cruel world,”² it falls squarely within the jurisdiction of the Court. The present case is no different. This is an infraction on students’ right to receive food as some petty recompense for their sacrifices at law

¹ *UVA Law v. Barracks Road Chipotle*, 74 U.Va. 9 (2021).

² *Hungry People v. Law School Student Orgs*, 75 U.Va. 12 (2022).

school.

The Court might, of course, construe this action as merely 1Ls complaining, in which case, “1Ls always lose.”³ However, in *Hungry People v. Law School Student Orgs*, the Court held that in similar free food situations, the quality of food-providing events must be acceptable under the standard applied to 2Ls and 3Ls, even if 1Ls are disproportionately harmed.⁴ Since the opportunities to receive Lexis Rewards—and thus the food benefits from them—are open to 2Ls and 3Ls, the Lexis Rewards changes are an infraction on their ability to receive free food as well. The mere fact that 1L students tend to rely on these points more does not preclude judgment in their favor.

Next, we turn to the impact on the broader Law School community as a result of the 1Ls’ injury. Without the ability to feed themselves via Lexis, 1Ls will be forced to turn to food enjoyed by 2Ls and 3Ls. Specifically, 1Ls will turn to ravaging the already depleted resources at the free food table and events.⁵ In October 2022, this Court highlighted the woes of UVA Law’s current state of free food and enjoined the 1Ls from consuming more than one-third of the free food at student org events.⁶ 1Ls, at this time, had few other food options. This class entered UVA Law with Graduate PLUS loans having an interest rate of 7.54%. This is an increase from 6.28% last year, and 5.30% the

³ *Students v. Empty Food Table*, 75 U.Va. 10 (2022).

⁴ *Hungry People*, 75 U.Va. 12.

⁵ See *Students v. Empty Food Table*, 75 U.Va. 10 (2022).

⁶ *1Ls v. 2Ls and 3Ls*, 75 U.Va. 6 (2022).

year before. With rising inflation and no fat summer associate checks, 1Ls have been forced to spend an unconscionable amount of money on food. Like manna sent from heaven, Lexis points offered these students the ability to purchase a burrito that they would not be paying off at a 7.54% interest rate for the next decade.

Finally, this brief is an indicator of the damage caused by the discontinuation of the Office Hours points. Who in their right mind would write a brief like this? Who would go to these lengths to complain? Sadly, me. I spent four hours writing this. I took time out of my day, at the expense of preparing for Con Law, because I am disappointed and hungry. I am broke. And I have no idea how to use any other research platform because of my reliance on Lexis Rewards. This is a clear act of desperation, and the moaning and whining will only continue.

Conclusion

Please, I am so hungry.

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Faculty Quotes

J. Harrison: “Every link in this chain, especially the *Law Weekly*, is highly suspect.”

C. Nelson: “I’ll tell you a story as long as you promise not to tell the *Law Weekly*.”

T. Frampton: “What do you think about that...woman flavor?”


M. Livermore: “Think of the poor Russian oligarchs who will lose some of their wealth if real estate values in New York City go down.”

M. Collins: “I should have brought in my bobble doll of Justice Souter.”

A. Bamzai: “I remain confident that you all can pull it together and get at least a C on the exam without running afoul of the Honor Code.”

J. Mahoney, describing farmer opposition in a case: “Do the farmers have beef?”

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



Virginia Law Weekly

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APARTHEID

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“savage population,” acting with the goal of eliminating the indigenous people and replacing them with a settler society, and instituting a complex set of laws and restrictions so as to establish dominance over the native population and deprive them of their most basic human rights.⁴

In order to understand why Apartheid Week is important, one must first learn about the event that propelled and enabled the founding of Israel: the Nakba. The Nakba (Arabic for “catastrophe”) is the most explicit and marked event of removal of Palestinians from their land. It refers to the ethnic cleansing campaign against the indigenous Palestinian population, which started in late 1947. During the Nakba, Zionist militias expelled over 750,000 Palestinians from their homes, destroyed and depopulated 531 Palestinian cities, towns, and villages, and committed an estimated 155 massacres.⁵ It represented not only an attempted physical annihilation of Palestinian

4 *Settler Colonialism*, Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute (updated May 2022), https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/settler_colonialism.

5 *The Nakba and Palestine Refugees*, Inst. for Middle East Understanding (May 5, 2022), <https://imeu.org/article/the-nakba-and-palestine-refugees-imeu-questions-and-answers>.



Photo Credit: UVA Law PalTrek. Pictured: UVA Law's PalTrek Group last month at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

civilization, but also the annihilation of Palestinian culture, identity, and history.⁶

The Nakba is a historical moment that would set the tone in Palestine for the next seventy-five years onward. The Zionists responsible for eradicating Palestinian villages were never charged or held responsible for their actions.⁷ Soon, a pattern would

6 Ofer Aderet, *Testimonies from the Censored Deir Yassin Massacre: ‘They Piled Bodies and Burned Them’*, Haaretz.com (Jul. 16, 2017), <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2017-07-16/ty-article-magazine/testimonies-from-the-censored-massacre-at-deir-yassin/000017f-e364-d38f-a57f-e77689930000>.

7 Antisemitism and anti-Zionism are two separate, incredibly different things. As emphasized by the anti-Zionist organization Jewish Voice for

emerge as a part of what Palestinians call the “ongoing Nakba,” which describes the continuation of Israel’s unchecked violence and expansion of its settler-colonial state with no international accountability. This ongoing Nakba, and the

Peace, “Criticism of Zionism is not to be conflated with antisemitism. States such as Israel and the United States are openly criticized in public life, and their political beliefs and policies are subject to critical debate, in accord with our basic First Amendment rights.” Criticism of Israel, a state that many Jewish people themselves oppose the founding of, is not antisemitism, and to construe it as such is not only inaccurate and misguided, but dangerous. For more thorough explanations and literature on the matter, please refer to *JVP’s approach to Zionism*, Jewish Voice for Peace, <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/zionism> (last visited February 5, 2023).

way Israel has essentially “legalized” its apartheid regime, will be our primary focus and framework during Apartheid Week. Discussing the importance of this event, Warren Griffiths ’23 said, “While [the PalTrek group was] in Palestine, we learned how the occupation affects every part of Palestinian life, we learned about the variety of methods Israel uses to oppress Palestinians, we learned about the constant threat to Palestinian existence. We learned all of this in order to teach others in the U.S. about it. That’s what Apartheid Week is about.” The events this week will demonstrate the way Israel’s apartheid system touches on nearly every aspect of life for Palestinians: It destroys the environment, prevents Palestinians from economically supporting themselves, restricts freedom of movement and travel, relies on and legitimizes police brutality, and deprives children of their humanity and innocence.

As I write this, I cannot help but think about a recent example of Israel’s inhumanity, and an event that, I believe, communicates how important it is that we talk about Palestine here at UVA Law and everywhere. Tuesday night, the Israeli occupation forces invaded Al-Aqsa Mosque, one of the most sacred sites in Islam, and a site that our PalTrek group had the privilege of visiting just three weeks ago. Here, the occupation forces assaulted hundreds of Palestinians praying and worshiping during the holy month of Ramadan. They

shot stun grenades and tear gas inside the mosque, causing the Palestinian worshippers to suffocate. They also beat worshippers—who were kneeling on the floor in prayer positions—with batons and rifles. They forced worshippers to lay on the ground while they handcuffed them one by one. In a barbaric and internationally illegal display of power, the occupation forces then detained approximately 400-500 Palestinian worshippers in total. Additionally, they started a fire in the mosque, burning sacred ornaments and destroying furniture.⁸

While I was following the news coverage of the Israeli occupation’s attacks, I came across the following question posed by Mohammad El-Kurd, a Palestinian activist and poet:

“There is a moment of ‘awakening,’ usually at an early age, in which Palestinians become violently aware of their identity and the subsequent subjugation that haunts it... For me, that moment was the killing of [twelve-year-old] Muhammad Al-Durrah in his father’s arms. Can you recall yours?”⁹

8 *Israeli Forces Storm Al-Aqsa, Attack Worshippers During Ramadan*, Al Jazeera (Apr. 5, 2023), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/4/5/israeli-police-attack-worshippers-in-jerusalems-al-aqsa-mosque>.

9 Talal Abu Rahma, *Behind the Lens: Remembering Muhammad Al-Durrah, 20 Years on*, Al Jazeera (Sep. 30, 2020), <https://www.aljazeera>.

APARTHEID page 6

HOT BENCH



Devon Chenelle '23
Prose Style Editor
Interviewed by Nikolai Morse '24

Devon, Devon, Devon. Congrats on (nearly) having made it through law school! I’m sure your tenure on the Law Weekly has been one of your many keys to success, which we’d all like to hear about. How does it feel to be almost done?

Yes, my time with the *Law Weekly* has been one of the absolute highlights of my time at the law school. It’s such a fantastic group of people that has maintained a great culture over my entire time here. It feels pretty wild to be almost done with law school, and by extension, my schooling as a whole. I worked for two years between graduating college and law school, but at this point, that really feels like a

blip. It’s basically been twenty years of continuous schooling, and as the last month of that arrives, it feels a little overwhelming, but I’m also very ready to fully launch into the professional world.

What originally brought you to UVA Law? Was law school always part of the plan?

I was attracted to UVA Law for a couple reasons, besides it being a great school. My father did his medical residency at UVA Hospital, and my parents always spoke of Charlottesville as being one of the most wonderful places in America, so that had put UVA on my radar. And I grew up, went to college, and worked in the Midwest, so I felt like it was important to finally try another part of the country. Law school was pretty much always my plan, even when I was a little kid. The only other things I seriously considered were journalism or getting a Ph.D. in History. I knew journalism wasn’t going to be a long-term fit when, while doing a little work as a freelance writer in college, I had a long fight with an editor over the phone about getting a raise from \$10 per article to \$12 per article. I did the math and realized that, with my raise, I was making approximately \$2.50 per hour. At that point, I had already interned in a law office and really enjoyed it, and so I think I then realized a legal career was the right move.

Something folks might not realize about you is

that you’re in the J.D.-M.A. Program in History. How did you decide on pursuing that path?

Yeah, the J.D.-M.A. Program in History was actually one of the main things that attracted me to UVA Law. I’ve been obsessed with history ever since I was little, and I wanted to go a little further with it than just an undergraduate major. So it was such a delight to be able to participate in the J.D.-M.A. program.

Has it been challenging to manage the course loads for both a J.D. and a Master’s in History? Do you have any time-management tips you can share?

Surprise, surprise, it turns out that graduate coursework in history is just as big of a jump in difficulty as law school courses were relative to undergraduate classes, so yes, for me at least, it has definitely been a challenge to manage both degrees simultaneously. But I absolutely love it and am thankful for the opportunity to even participate in the history department, so I really can’t complain. I’m really happy with my choice, and I am so grateful to Professor Barzun for both admitting me into the program and guiding me through my coursework and research efforts the whole time. In terms of time-management tips, personally, I am a huge proponent of setting timers. For me, it’s enormously helpful to set a, say, forty-five-minute timer, work

until it goes off, then check my phone, take a lap around the Law School, and then set another timer and get back into it.

What is your thesis for the M.A. in History on?

So the Constitution bans something called “bills of attainder,” which are basically laws that single out an individual person for punishment without any judicial process. In the research process for my thesis, I’ve found that the Constitutional ban on the bills was inspired by similar legal practices in ancient history, and that comes with a number of consequences. The new understanding of attainder for which I’m arguing means executive nonjudicial punishments, such as the No Fly List, could potentially implicate the attainder ban.

Fascinating! Almost as fascinating as your review of Succession in this week’s edition of the Law Weekly. Speaking of, do you have a favorite article you have written during your time with the Law Weekly?

Yes! My favorite article was actually my first, “Words of Wisdom from a World Traveler.” I interviewed a man named Ali Muhammad, who used to work as a security guard at the Law School. He arrived in Charlottesville as a refugee from Iraq. He was a wonderfully thoughtful and introspective man, and, unsurprisingly—given his life

experiences—had a lot of interesting things to say and a marked perspective. I actually think back on our conversation a lot.

That is a great one. Well, do you have any parting thoughts or words of advice for the 1Ls and 2Ls who still have some time left at UVA Law?

Really lean in and know that, while there will be frustrations and annoyances during your time here, three years at UVA Law offers you an incredible opportunity for personal and professional development most of us will not have again. You will sometimes get stressed out at the competition here, and you will sometimes come up short for things you really wanted. That’s just life, and I think it’s so important to accept and even embrace that. But the flip side of that coin is that, if you just take the time and effort to look, you will find that there are so many wonderful opportunities lurking around every corner here. Just from being a student here, I’ve gotten to do things that would have seemed like wild dreams as an undergraduate. I truly think everyone here can find something for themselves that makes their time here really special.

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Guide to Becoming a "Keeper"

Garrett Coleman '25
Managing Editor

Last week, Dean Kevin Donovan gave two renditions of his professionalism class, this installment being titled: *Are You a "Keeper"?* The two-hour presentation was directed at firm-bound students, serving as a primer for how the Big Law apparatus works and how to put your best foot forward in the summer internship you worked so hard to secure. For those of you unable to attend, or those who share my level of emotional intelligence and need reinforcement on that front, here is an overview of this helpful class.¹

Much of the time was spent on the firm business model and its current pressures from the economic environment. One of the first concepts Dean Donovan explained was "leverage." If your firm has many associates working on large teams with few partners, then it is highly leveraged. This describes most of the firms in the American Lawyer 100. Contrast this to a boutique, in which there are very few associates for each partner. Dean Donovan explained that the tradeoff with increasing leverage is that the firm will be more exposed to recessions, while better able to meet demand in hot times. There

¹ Credit for the title of this article goes to Ms. Ashley Lo '25, and her penchant for timely—if tardy—quips.

Also, this article merely scratches the surface of what was covered. A follow-up with OPP is recommended for those who did not attend.

SOFTBALL

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The FSU Alumni team previously signed up for the canceled 2020 tournament, so they were invited back when the full tournament returned in 2022. In the Open Bracket, they faced off against UVA's Open Gold team in a thrilling final, but lost 24-22. They were invited back again in 2023 and stormed through the weather-abbreviated bracket, winning by twenty-seven runs in the final. FSU captain T.J. Percell said, "We absolutely love coming to this tournament. . . . We treat it as a big reunion for our guys, since COVID took away two of our years together and this is the only chance we get to play together post-law school," since their players live all around the country. Their camaraderie and experience showed. From the first game, FSU was the favorite to win the Open Bracket.

By contrast, UVA Co-Rec Gold had a difficult run to the championship. The Co-Rec Bracket had many more teams (fifty-six Co-Rec teams vs. twelve Open teams). UVA also took steps to spread its talent across teams after an absurd run to the championship last year—Co-Rec Gold's final run differential was 216-20. With a close game against Brooklyn Law School, a stern test by UVA Co-Rec Blue in the semifinals, and a matchup with a star-studded William & Mary Alumni team in the final, Co-Rec Gold became repeat champions, winning a thrilling final 25-24.

This amazing run capped

was also an explanation on how that beautiful market rate gets into your bank account. Assuming 100% realized billable hours, a junior associate would bring in over one million dollars. What a great investment you are! But the reality is that many of your billable hours will be written off by a partner, so your "actualized" billables will be lower. And for the Big Law model to work, they expect junior associates to be bringing in at least double their salary.

While Dean Donovan said that he does not see an impending 2008 in the broader economy, there is likely to be a coming shock. And, if sustained, that could mean that your summer class of twenty-eight may only yield twenty offers. What comes next are strategies to secure your spot in that top twenty.

Showing initiative to superiors is an ideal way to move up the ladder. Included in the presentation was a recorded anecdote from Cate Stetson '94, in which she recounted getting lunch with a junior associate. His initiative to ask her to lunch and express interest in her appellate litigation practice group is what put him on the radar. Without that lunch, it is likely that Stetson would not have taken him onto her team, and he would not be as close to making partner. All of this came from a simple lunch request. Building off of that, Dean Donovan mentioned that slower times for your practice group provide opportunities for this kind of soft career work. And lastly, initiative must be paired

with good judgment, meaning that you interact with your superiors tactfully and only when you have enough bandwidth to take on more work.

Closely related to demonstrating initiative effectively is your level of emotional intelligence. This has several components, each of which can be improved upon. First, you need to be able to recognize your own emotions and how they are coming across as you interact with others. Dean Donovan gave a personal example of habitually walking fast—idiosyncrasies like these can leave the wrong impression among people who don't know you well. Another aspect is being able to read the emotions of your coworkers. Reading the room and the body language of your higher ups is a necessary skill. Before going on a long tangent or interrupting to offer a solution, consider whether the environment is conducive to that. This also ties into a general level of optimism, the importance of which was noted by Dean Donovan. Resisting the urge to be fatalistic when under pressure is an important aspect of being enjoyable to work with. And lastly, if some interaction does go poorly over the summer, reach out to the Office of Private Practice to strategize.

Much of this emotional intelligence depends on your presence in the office. While hybrid work can be a tempting escape, Dean Donovan recommends a dynamic approach. For example, if the firm officially has a three-in-two-out schedule, but people

in your practice group tend to be in the office on Fridays, then you should follow suit.

There were also smaller and more tangible steps to improve your value at a firm. First, record your time consistently throughout the day, in detail. Waiting until the end of the day is less reliable and will take up more of your free time. And be sure to record the "highest executive function you are using" and incorporate that into the bill. The fact that *you* are detailing this rather than an assistant means that the firm expects a sincere effort. Second, create systems for yourself that allow you to handle the onslaught of information. Keeping your calendars and to-do lists separate is a good way to prevent confusion.

Towards the end of the presentation, Dean Donovan shared a particularly helpful metaphor. He likened competition among associates in Big Law to selling white T-shirts at a mall. More or less, everyone has the same product. In response to that reality, you should focus on how you are going to sell your image and create a network of return customers. These customers represent the attorneys that like to bring you in for work and will vouch for you in the future. The ultimate goal is to be a "trusted advisor" to several attorneys, meaning that you are a universal resource for their quandaries. This is the path to becoming a keeper.

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off the softball careers of two of North Grounds' most consistent and skilled players and captains: Laura Lowry '23 and Jon Peterson '23. With the help of elite third baseman Christian Slattery '23 and new father Jacob Mitchell '23, they were able to keep the team calm under pressure and set next year's team up for continued success.

Reflecting on her time on Co-Rec Gold, Lowry said, "Co-Rec Gold has given me the chance to get to know people I probably otherwise wouldn't cross paths with. Softball really brings the entire Law School community together. The tournament allows us to share that special part of our community with other law schools, and that's what keeps bringing all of these schools to Charlottesville every year." Lowry pitched a complete tournament and hit an over-the-fence home run in a performance commentators are calling a "Shohei-esque performance."

Just as vital to the team's success was Peterson's performance as leadoff hitter and left center fielder. His most important moment came in the championship's fifth in-

ning, when, with two outs, he hit a grand slam, giving Co-Rec Gold a lead they held for the rest of the game. Echoing Lowry's emphasis on the power softball had to bring people together, Peterson said, "It is just awesome to see how my softball experience has grown from being a last-ditch effort to create a community during a global pandemic, to playing in a massive tournament with students from all over participating."

Founder Tom McNeill noted "what an incredible national event this has become." He said he and the other inaugural tournament directors "never DREAMED it would turn out like this!" With teams already excited for the forty-first tournament, the future looks bright for the nation's longest-running law school sports tournament. A special thanks to Deputy Tournament Director Shivani Arimilli '23 and Head Field Monitors Sally Levin '24 and Rachel Lia '24, who went above and beyond to make this year's tournament possible.

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APARTHEID

continued from page 5

It is time for the UVA Law community to hold itself accountable. Our institution and the individuals comprising it cannot consider ourselves to be promoters of justice and equality if we choose to discuss some human rights violations while deliberately refusing to discuss others. Our willful ignorance is not neutral. It is oppressive. Not everyone has the privilege of refusing and postponing the "awakening" about which Mohammad El-Kurd writes. Most Palestinians, as he mentioned, experience it at a young age. This Apartheid Week, I invite you to have your own moment of awakening; I urge you to become violently aware of the subjugation that terrorizes Palestinians and the ways in which they resist it.

com/features/2020/9/30/behind-the-lens-remembering-muhammad-al-durrah.



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