



VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

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

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The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights

Andrew Allard '25
Executive Editor

In *Taft v. Hyatt*,¹ an attorney and members of a Masonic lodge both claimed entitlement to an award for the arrest or information leading to the arrest of a Black physician, Robert E. Smith. Smith had met with the attorney, William Hyatt, as a prospective client. But when the two failed to reach an agreement, Hyatt told the county attorney where to find Smith. Just an hour later, lodge members Clarence Glass and Thomas Edwards—unaware of Hyatt's actions or the award for Smith's arrest—helped the police bring Smith to prison. The court concluded that none of the parties were entitled to the award, because Hyatt's information did not lead to Smith's arrest and because the lodge members who were unaware of the offer could not have accepted it.

Law students might be familiar with this case—a classic illustration of offer and acceptance—or at least others like it. But when *Taft v. Hyatt* appeared in a 1972 contracts casebook, it left out a key fact: The Masonic lodge whose members helped arrest Smith was a “colored” Masonic lodge; they were trying to protect Smith from a lynch mob.

As legal historian Professor Dylan C. Pennin-groth of the University of California, Berkeley explains in his new book, *Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights*, omissions like this were part of a pattern that excluded Black lives from the history of American law. Under pressure to incorporate Black Americans in their curricula, top law schools in the 1970s

1 105 Kan. 35 (1919).

Meet the SBA Candidates



Pictured, left to right: (top row) Presidential Candidates: Simeon Daferede '25, Ginny Reams '25, Laura-Louise Rice '25 (bottom row) Vice Presidential Candidates: Tomi Woods '25, Nolan Edmonson '25, Rahul Ramesh '25

Simeon Daferede '25 Presidential Candidate

My time at our law school has inspired me to not just to become a better lawyer, but an even better person thanks to becoming a part of this wonderful UVA Law family. Yet, our institution can always improve to allow everyone to be a part of our family whether it be through our resources, increased representation, or accommodations for our student body. As SBA President, I aim to campaign on extending accessibility to our events, our campus, and to academic success for our peers. Below are some of my ticket's ideas.

To improve access to our events, I would decrease the prices for our marquee events—Barrister's Ball, the PILA Auction, and Fauxfield—by allowing payment plans for Law School events. To improve the safety of our social events, I will work with SBA to create a team of volunteers that can act as designated “sober monitors” that would be points of contact for attendees to call or locate at an event to report if they feel unsafe or need a way to get home. Next, I would propose partnering with rideshare services for off-grounds events by providing attendees with codes, which would increase access to and from events

safely. Lastly, we would plan a Law School Family Weekend. Our family members are only able to visit our campus in the beginning at orientation and at the end at graduation. But they never get to fully experience our community on a day dedicated just for them.

Second, our team will work with our administration to improve access to campus resources. I would begin with improving student access to parking spaces by ensuring clearer signage for permit parking and better enforcement of the Visitor's Pass for events. Next, I would advocate to increase our financial aid options. We must have more need-based scholarships for incoming students; we need our law school to aid its future public servants with 3L Summer Stipends to study for the Bar. Further, I will push our administration to hire more OPP Counselors to increase the proportion of students to counselors. Additionally, I would ensure our library space is sacred during finals season for Law School students only by installing a Key Swipe Card to the library doors. Lastly, I would fight for better accessibility options for our student body during finals week by negotiating with administration to allow students to take their final flex

exams on Sundays, to submit the flex exams with larger submission windows, and to provide easier access to testing spaces for students with learning accommodations.

I am prepared to undertake the responsibilities to run our existing SBA Committees and to execute these measures based on my prior leadership experiences and current involvement at this Law School. Currently, I serve on the Admitted Students Open House Cabinet, where I work with admissions to execute the school's largest event for prospective students. I also serve as the Academic Chair for LPS where I have created initiatives to give access to academic and professional resources for LPS Members. Before law school, I worked at a research non-profit where I co-lead the implementation and project management of interventions designed to eradicate Youth Homelessness. During my undergraduate studies, I led UVA's UPC equivalent, the Major Activities Board, to use our \$250,000+ budget to book critically acclaimed musical acts, to procure sponsorships from local vendors, and to create an arts program fundraiser for local schools. I have cher-

around north grounds



Congratulations to Chip and Emily Rossino on the birth of their first child!



Thumbs up to the return of regular distribution of the *Law Weekly*. ANG thrives on being a constant source of chaos and subjecting law students to ANG's unhinged ramblings on paper as well as online.



Thumbs sideways to Russia apparently having...space nukes? ANG is morbidly fascinated by this chaotic sci-fi twist but also prefers when Russian propaganda just involved photos of Putin bare-knuckle boxing with bears.



Thumbs down to the start of SBA campaigning. ANG has serious doubts about the viability of representative democracy, especially in an electorate of law students.



Thumbs up to Public Radio legend, Bob Edwards. Thank you for all the years of quality programming.



Thumbs up to not two, not three, but *four* faculty-only events in this week's Docket email. ANG is excited to see this open defiance of the Court of Petty Appeals. Hopefully this means ANG can start disobeying the injunction forbidding ANG from swimming in the Spies Garden fountain.



Thumbs sideways to the return of Jon Stewart to *The Daily Show*. ANG loves a good homecoming but is not sure that what this presidential election needs is another old white guy.



Thumbs up to the Barrister's Co-Chairs for not selling 848 tickets to JAG students. ANG got off the waitlist and had a great time in the 360 photo booth.



Thumbs sideways to Tom Suozzi. You've got big shoes to fill, buddy. You'd better not disappoint.

Can a Reasonable Person Find Love?

Nicky Demitry '26
Staff Editor



Ashanti Jones '26
Staff Editor



In the time since women gained the right to open a bank account, vote, and have control over their own bodies, the constructs of love have shifted in America. The ways in which we can form romantic relationships are much broader, which I think is exciting. You can keep the bits from ye olden times that you like (open bar wedding!) and dispense with the ones you don't (taking a man's weird last name)! That said, some things about romance never change, and that's the inherent cringe of it all. As I walked up to the event, I found myself wishing for the first time ever that we had satirical *Law Weekly* press badges, just so people would know that I was there *~ironically~*. How cowardly of me.¹

But UVA grad students

¹ Maybe this is why I will die alone.

HISTORY

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began equating civil rights with minority status. "They implied that Black people encountered law meaningfully only in criminal justice, voting, the workplace, schools, and public accommodations—that is, in cases that were 'about race,'" Penningroth explained. Indeed, one of the few contracts cases that did acknowledge the involvement of Black litigants was *Williams v. Walker-Thomas Furniture Co.*,² a case dealing with the doctrine of unconscionability.

Penningroth was careful not to malign legal historians for their framing of Black history. As Penningroth explained, Black history as a modern field of study grew out of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. "Many leading Black historians came into the field profoundly shaped by their experiences as activists in the 1960s. Some of them explicitly said that their scholarship was a continuation of the struggle for Black freedom . . . Movement-centered scholarship is as urgent and necessary today as it was in the 1960s."

But Penningroth argued

² 350 F.2d 445 (D.C. Cir. 1965).

are persistent! And uncowed by extremely well-lit venues.² The event was well-attended, particularly by the Medical School. And this is where a respectable amount of plot began to emerge because the medical students were tricked into attendance with promises of a \$1,000 bar tab, as well as alleged prizes and games.³ Promises which were notably absent from the A-School and Law School invites.⁴

Paul, a friend from college and fourth-year med student whom I was very excited to randomly run into,

² As a veteran bartender I can tell you, bar feng shui is a thing. And if you're gonna have a super brightly lit event, consider access to liquor? Granted, I am projecting my own preference for goblin bars, but really, dim lighting makes it *much* easier to make a cute lil love connection. But that's just me, and ultimately, I am Just a Girl.

³ Do med students have a case for recovery based on promissory estoppel? Discuss.

⁴ Albeit I was tricked into attending by friends that claimed they needed moral support, only to back out after I had already agreed to cover the event for this paper.

said, "Yeah, the marketing for the event said there was a tab for food and drinks, so my friends and I showed up right at 7 p.m. to try and circumvent the ravenous grad student crowd. The bartender was very confused at the mention of a tab, but we thought maybe the tab just wasn't for med students. We told our other med student friends to lie and say they were law students, but there was no tab for them either. A few of my single classmates were excited to meet the elusive 'hot Darden guys,' but canonically, everyone stuck tightly to their circles of five to seven peers. Nevertheless, love was in the air."⁵

Other med students also had some choice words about this trickery, but all refused to be quoted, which was funny because their choice words were absolutely not offensive. For example: "Oh man, yeah, we were tricked!" And when asked

⁵ Paul absolved himself of my ire for missing the Galentine's party at my apartment the next night by giving me this quote to use and reminding me that, "maybe that's what Galentine's is all about. Realizing even the gays are still men."



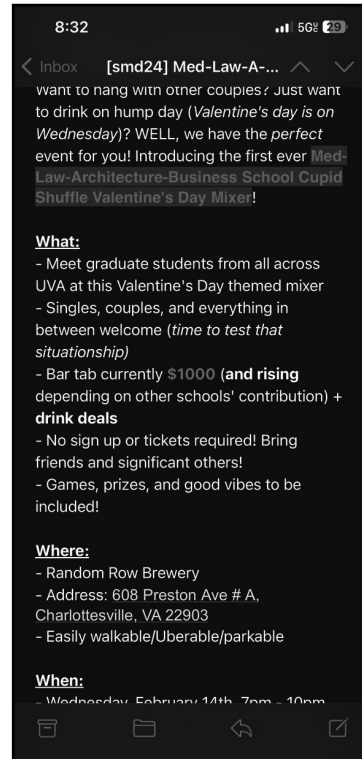
Pictured: Professor Dylan C. Penningroth gives his talk in Caplin Pavilion
Photo Credit: Andrew Allard '25

that focusing exclusively on how white supremacists weaponized the law against Black Americans has made legal historians miss how Black Americans shaped legal doctrine by using courts to their advantage. "It has helped make Black history almost synonymous with the history of race relations, as if Black lives only mattered when white people were somehow in the picture." And the Movement-centered framing has also placed a "moral burden on African-American history that few other scholarly fields have had to carry."

In reality, Black Americans had been using the law long before the Civil Rights Movement to marry, divorce, care for their elders,

own property, and run their churches and businesses. Penningroth's research revealed that there were more lawsuits involving Black litigants in the Jim Crow era than during Reconstruction. And while Black Americans were plaintiffs less often than whites were, the gap was narrow. At times, such as in Illinois in 1892, Blacks were overrepresented as plaintiffs. Black litigants came to court for a diverse array of matters, including divorce, insurance, unpaid rent, easements, wills, assaults by white neighbors, town officials who damaged their property, and more.

While Black litigants were asserting their legal rights, most often they were not challenging white



Pictured: Med School advertising for the Valentine's Day Mixer
Photo Credit: Nicky Demitry '26

if they were enjoying the event, most said, "What?" This was also the response to my question about whether faking chest pain still works to skip the line at the ER. Tame and level-headed was the med school vibe. This bodes well for their future as romantic partners.

The way I feel about dating is the way many people have felt about my attending law school. It's always

supremacy; most lawsuits brought by Black plaintiffs were brought against Black defendants. And when white defendants were involved, lawyers carefully developed strategies to avoid fomenting white fears of racial equality. Nor did Black litigants enter court on a level playing field. "The baseline rules of contracts, property, and civil procedure silently favored the haves over the have-nots, the repeat player over the one-shooter."

But the fact that Black Americans had been asserting their rights in courts for decades helps solve a puzzling question—why did Black Americans put faith in law in the first place? "If we want to understand Black people's demands for their rights that Americans denied them, then we have to pay more attention to how they talked about and used the rights that were not denied them," Penningroth explained.

Beyond overcoming a popular framing, telling the story of day-to-day Black legal victories came with a practical challenge—most case records simply don't mention the parties' race. "I wanted to write Black history," Penningroth said, "but I couldn't tell who was Black." Penningroth's fascination

some version of, "So Nicky, why go to law school, a ruinously expensive venture that at best grants you entry into a miserable profession where most people are horribly overworked, the substance abuse rate is over 66 percent, and the divorce rate second only to casino managers? Is law still a viable career path given that our society will likely see massive foundational unrest and shifts in the next fifty years that could render our entire view of not just the concept of law, but the very relationship of person to society an obsolete relic of a previous time?" Haha, great question(s)! I have no answer. Other than the immortal words of Charlotte from *Pride & Prejudice*: "I'm twenty-seven years old. I've no money and no prospects. I'm already a burden to my parents. And I'm frightened."

Ennui about love and career aside, I think it's very nice that there have been more events with the other graduate schools at UVA, and this perspective was shared by other students at

LOVE page 6

with these stories is evident from his respect for the documents where they lie. He described driving around the country, spending weeks at a time at a county courthouse sifting through forgotten papers in its dockets. "Very few people care about old court records," Penningroth said. "But for now they're still there for anyone willing to look. And they have stories to tell."

Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights is available now from W. W. Norton & Co.



tja2us@virginia.edu

SBA

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ished my time at UVA Law, and I believe that my experiences and our ideas can and will foster the community we deserve.

Ginny Reams '25 Presidential Candidate

Hi everyone! For those of you who I have not gotten the pleasure to meet, my name is Virginia “Ginny” Reams, and I am running to be your next SBA President. If my name looks familiar, it is probably because my introductions usually start with a “Good Morning and Happy Monday!” as I have spent the past year serving as Secretary on the Executive Board of SBA.

Being a part of the Executive Board for the past year has put me in the unique position to witness firsthand the intricacies of the presidential role and the commitment that is required to perform it successfully. I have been able to develop a deeper understanding of what policies in the organization are successful and which are not—it is not lost on me that the student body is often frustrated with SBA, and students feel as if the organization is simply a soundboard for their complaints. Nolan Edmonson and I are

running to change that. Our campaign is focused on refreshing the SBA structure, enriching the student experience, and creating space for student collaboration.

Firstly, we plan to refresh the committee structure that is currently in place by creating concrete goals for each committee to achieve throughout the year. In doing this, we hope to revitalize successful events of the past like Mental Health Week and Spirit Week, while additionally encouraging our committee members to create new programming. Further, we plan to have more direct Executive Board involvement on the Barrister’s Committee by placing either the Vice President or Treasurer as a permanent sitting member. We hope that this addition will alleviate continuing logistical concerns surrounding the event.

Secondly, we hope to enrich the student body experience. SBA is responsible for Fauxfield, Barrister’s, and many other signature events that students look forward to each year. In order to hold SBA accountable, we plan to publish a calendar at the beginning of the semester of the dates of these events. Additionally, this communication will include standardized event ticketing procedures and timelines in order

to assuage current student frustrations.

Lastly, and most importantly, we are promising to prioritize student collaboration and communication throughout our tenure. Nolan and I plan to engage the student voice by having regular and open communication with not only student leaders, but the entirety of the student body. In order to achieve this, we plan to increase SBA collaborations with a wide range of student organizations, while specifically bolstering support for affinity organizations, so we can ensure that each student feels welcomed in the greater UVA community. Further, we will be opening the SBA office to public weekly office hours so that we can hear from any student who may have a concern or an idea.

If you got this far, I truly appreciate your time to listen to our ideas. I genuinely believe that Nolan and I have the combined experience and passion to take SBA to a level that it has never been. We would be truly humbled to be elected your next SBA President and Vice President and will work tirelessly to make this place that is so special to us, even more so.

Laura-Louise Rice '25 Presidential Candidate

Hi everyone! My name is Laura-Louise Rice and I am humbled to be running to be your next SBA President. As I reflect on my time at UVA Law, these past two years have been filled with friendship, support, and memories that will last a lifetime. If elected SBA President, my goal will be to foster opportunities for each of you to similarly find deep fulfillment in your experience at UVA Law. I’m running to make SBA more ACTIVE in the Law School along with my friends: Rahul, Asha, Mark, and Amelia. Our platform is ACTIVE – Accountability, Communication, Transparency, Inclusivity, Vibes, and Engagement. An ACTIVE SBA allows us to focus on the student experience from multiple angles by empowering student organizations, engaging in meaningful advocacy, and hosting events where everyone feels welcome. We believe that each of these tenets embodies our vision to make SBA approachable and reliable to both student organizations and the broader student body.

Accountability, Communication. Transparency. As SBA President, my time, my energy, and my efforts will be yours. Accountability,

communication, and transparency all work hand in hand to make sure that each of you feels heard and your concerns feel answered. It is the SBA President’s job to be vocal on behalf of students to Law School Administration. As we welcome a new Dean, I plan to leverage the many relationships that I have already established with Law School Administration to maintain a culture of collaboration and accountability. I will ensure that, when student concerns arise, a clear path to potential solutions can be found. I believe that the ability to self-govern as students comes with great responsibility, which I will approach with accountability, communication, and transparency.

Inclusivity. Vibes. Engagement. These efforts function to ensure everyone feels a sense of belonging here at UVA Law. I chose to attend UVA because of the collegial atmosphere that is uncommon in a law school experience, and I believe SBA plays a critical role in preserving our experience. SBA already sponsors and cosponsors so many wonderful programs, but we aim to leverage SBA’s role to make events more inclusive by considering financial

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NSLF, LIST Host MoFo National Security Attorneys

Noah Coco '26
Staff Editor



On Tuesday, February 13, the National Security Law Forum (NSLF) and the Law, Innovation, Security & Technology Society (LIST) hosted five attorneys from the D.C. office of Morrison Foerster to discuss legal careers in national security and data privacy. The panel was composed of partners Brandon Van Grack, co-chair of Morrison Foerster’s National Security and Global Risk + Crisis Management groups, and James Brower, along with associates Jonathan Babcock '18, Whitney Lee, and Liv Chap. The group collectively gave the room, full of mostly 1Ls in the midst of private firm search, a broad sense of what a career in national security law might look like.

Van Grack began the discussion by emphasizing the broad scope of the national security law practice group, which encompasses issues ranging from sanctions and export controls to data privacy and cyber incident response, and even to issues of political law like foreign agent registration. This breadth was well-represent-

ed on the panel of attorneys, each of whom focused on at least one of these issues. Within these categories, Van Grack noted the one unifying characteristic: “Policy interests ultimately underscore everything.” Although this does not mean that attorneys in private firm national security practices are performing political roles, their practices are nonetheless responsive to current events and regulatory changes. “Whatever a national security issue is evolves over time,” Van Grack noted, as new regulatory regimes emerge and others are replaced.

This dynamic nature of the practice is what drew many of the attorneys on the panel to national security law. Contrary to practices like tax law where the regulatory regime is complex and has developed over a long period of time, national security law changes much more rapidly as it responds to emerging political and technological developments. Incumbency in the practice does not necessarily serve the same advantages as it does in other practice groups. Take artificial intelligence (AI), for instance. Lee noted that the firm has



*Pictured: Morrison Foerster's Logo
Photo Credit: @MoFoLLP on X*

already started to address issues of cyberattacks promulgated through AI-generated deepfakes. This represents an entirely novel question of law in which even new attorneys can become the foremost experts in a relatively short period of time. It is not the case, Lee remarked, that there are partners at the firm with twenty years of experience to catch up with.

It is easy to see how technological advancements contribute to this dynamic, but political regulatory regimes have a nearly identical feature. Van Grack alluded to six new regulatory regimes that were proposed just last month—for example, new regulations on outbound investment similar to those administered by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) for inbound investments. A new regulatory regime means a level playing field for attorneys

to learn and become leading experts in an area of law.

Another theme that emerged throughout the discussion was that, although as a regulatory practice national security law does not require much litigation, there is plenty of opportunity to use similar skills in service of advocacy on behalf of clients before government regulatory agencies. Babcock, for instance, regularly advocates for clients in front of CFIUS. Although the advocacy does not take the form of courtroom litigation, he still appreciates the opportunity to use similar research and writing skills in a forum that allows him to advocate for his clients “face-to-face with regulators.”

Van Grack made a similar reflection of his own experiences in front of regulators, and he highlighted the opportunity to work with clients to characterize the facts at the center of regulatory actions and to challenge regulator narratives. According to Van Grack, although this form of advocacy does not always require formal legal arguments, it nonetheless requires the same skills and is a rewarding feature of the job.

Finally, several of the attorneys gave insights into the life cycle of a typical matter in their practice groups. Two matters in particular were discussed. The first one was pulled from a recent sanctions violation case that Babcock negotiated with the Department of Treasury. Babcock outlined his team’s response from initial internal investigations and strategizing, through to his engagement and ultimate settlement with the Department of Treasury. The whole process lasted almost three years. In contrast, Lee gave insights into what a typical cyber incident response might look like, which is likely to develop much more rapidly. The initial response is the most intensive because it often requires coordinating efforts to discover the source and scope of a cyber-attack while also managing relations with clients, regulators, and the media. Van Grack described this early phase as a “fast burn,” followed by weeks or even months of clean-up work once the incident is under control.

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

Not All Friends are Lawyers (NAFAL) v. Student Bar Association
76 U.Va 15 (2024)

COLEMAN, J. delivers the opinion of the court.

Coleman, J., delivering the opinion of the court.

We are here to review the constitutionality of a new piece of compromise legislation aimed at securing the Barrister's Ball. After passing the divided chambers of the Student Bar Association, L.B. 01 was signed into law on the eve of the 2024 Ball. It was immediately challenged by the nonprofit group Not All Friends are Lawyers, or NAFAL, for violating their due process and equal protection rights. The lawsuit was joined by Lawyers with Friends, who added a claim that the law violates their rights under the Privileges and Immunities Clause. In the spirit of judicial restraint, for which I am widely admired, we reject these claims and affirm the constitutionality of L.B. 01 in full. We also choose to address complaints of students who purchased non-drinking tickets but still wanted access to the open bar.

I'

A crisis at the Ball has been steadily growing for years. In 2023, the ticket selection process resulted in

¹ Actual headings, while helpful, are for the lower petty courts.

much angst for the 1Ls, who were barely even guaranteed space for themselves. At a political rally following the ticket release, then-president Juhi Desai '23 was met with thunderous applause after suggesting that we "shut down the Ball until we figure out what the hell is going on!" Other influential law students suggested that we restrict tickets to outsiders with J.D.s.

"Barrister's cannot operate if a critical mass of cheap law students buy discounted tickets and then commit honor code violations to get drinks."

This discontent manifested itself in compromise legislation, which aimed to limit ticket sales to outsiders while still keeping the Ball somewhat open. L.B. 01 has three contested sections. The first orders that the Ball co-chairs immediately close ticket sales when the flow of non-law students reaches 300. § 2 narrows the definition of "eligible guest" to "husband, wife, spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, or significant other." And § 3 allows the co-chairs to summarily eject any non-law student who fails to laugh at a law student's legal joke.

II

NAFAL first posits that the new bill is violative of their due process rights under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. With respect

to the Fifth Amendment, they have a point here. Any guest, having failed to laugh at a law student's joke, can summarily lose the rest of her night. The ticket would be worthless. Travel expenses would be wasted. However, these guests would be entitled to adequate process. First, they would be notified beforehand of the standard: laugh or be ejected. Second, the Barrister's co-chairs

would still serve as factfinders to determine whether the slight had actually happened. This Court is fine with limited adjudications taking place outside of petty courts, especially when efficiency demands it at events like the Ball.

With respect to the equal protection claim, we first need to note that non-law student guests are not a protected class. And rational basis review is a forgiving master. Counsel did point out that I am sometimes willing to apply a forceful rational basis review.² But

² See *Students for Attending Cool Events v. UVA Law Faculty*, 76 U.Va. 13 (2024) (Coleman, J., dissenting) ("Because excluding me from any event reeks of arbitrariness, I would hold that the 'open to faculty' exclusion violates the Equal Protection Clause.").

counsel failed to observe that the designation in that case was harming me.

The argument under the Privileges and Immunities Clause is most interesting, but it also fails. It posits that a foundational privilege of being a law student is taking people to our fancy functions. The nerdy can show off, the status-obsessed can go on about how many resources big firms have to

tion of privacy to mark the non-drinkers with permanent ink to prevent them from accessing the open bar. We find this restriction to be a reasonable means of implementing a valid fiscal goal. According to one of the event's organizers, revenue increased by nearly 20 percent in response to the preliminary scare tactics. Barrister's cannot operate if a critical mass of cheap law students buy discounted tickets and then commit honor code violations to get drinks. So, while physically marking non-drinkers was an aggressive choice, we understand the necessity.

IV

In response to widespread dissatisfaction, our legislative branch came to a compromise to secure the Ball. This Court is not prepared to let the rights of non-law students diminish the enjoyment of our future lawyers. The judgment of the appellate division is reversed and L.B. 01 is good law.

fund these events, and the average law student can share a good night with their significant other. While I am tempted by this argument, I think it ultimately misstates history because it presupposes that law students have always had many guests to choose from before a Ball.

III

This Court would also like to address complaints with respect to the drinking tickets. Some have complained that it was an inva-

Faculty Quotes

M. Versteeg: "I recently became an American...for better or worse."

F. Schauer: "I was a practicing smut lawyer"

J. Harrison: "You can't sue the person responsible for the lightning. That person has sovereign immunity, you might say."

J. Harrison: "What are you going to think about over the weekend except remedies?"

G. Cohen: "My wife loves crime shows...probably figuring out a way to knock me off somehow."

P. Ahdout: "Trick question. You are all right, and you are all wrong...but the more important point is that you are all wrong!"

J. Harrison: "Mallo Cups, like me, are not what they used to be."

J. Harrison: "It's either Wisconsin or Minnesota. I don't know, one of the dairy states."

M. Versteeg: "Animals cannot vote."

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

C. Nicoletti: "Aaron Burr... doesn't have a musical."

Counsel's Counsel

The world's preeminent advice column for law students.



Virginia Law Weekly

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Virginia Law Weekly
580 Massie Road
University of Virginia School of Law
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903-1789

Phone: 434.812.3229
editor@lawweekly.org
www.lawweekly.org

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SBA

continued from page 3 constraints, having both alcoholic & non-alcoholic activities, and prioritizing the overall welfare of students. Mental health is often referred to in passing at the Law School, but we want mental health to be an ACTIVE consideration in all of our programming & advocacy.

By revitalizing SBA's infrastructure and committees, we will ensure that SBA is a strong nucleus in the student experience at the Law School. In reflecting on my time as First Year Council President and then President of the Black Law Students Association, what I have learned most is the importance of bridge-building. SBA stands to bridge the gap between students, student organizations, and administration. We hope to be ACTIVE in bridging those gaps through organization alliance meetings, mini-org fairs, and integration of committees into much of SBA's operations.

We recognize that SBA as it stands is often known to be an organization that provides funds and standard programming each year, but our goal is to accomplish much more. Throughout this upcoming year, an

ACTIVE SBA will serve the student body as we navigate successes and challenges, both on Grounds and around the world. Strong, organized leadership that is focused on uplifting student needs will allow us to enhance individual student experiences while maintaining our collegial community. Thank you, and I look forward to getting ACTIVE with you all next year!

Toni Woods '25 Vice Presidential Candidate

As Vice President, my campaign platform prioritizes student accessibility first and foremost. A campaign idea is only as meaningful as the students that are able to benefit from it. When considering how to best serve as Vice President, it is most important to me that as many UVA Law students are able and encouraged to participate in student life here as possible. I would aim to increase student event participation by making events more price-conscious, inclusive, diversified, and engaging.

Specifically, I propose the following plans: decreasing the prices of school events, especially hallmarks like Fauxfield, PILA, and Barrister's Ball; increasing the safety and comfort of school

events by designating sober monitors to help any incapacitated or uncomfortable students; partnering with ride-sharing companies or organizing bus shuttles or carpools to meet any transportation need; broadcasting the dates and details of events to students as early and often as feasible; participating in or at least informing the student body of more events happening in Charlottesville like Restaurant Week, concerts or performances, and the Carter Mountain Sunset Series; and involving more of the student body with events without alcohol and with invitations to include partners or family.

I am qualified to serve as Vice President because of my experience coordinating events, monitoring and serving on committees, participating in the Student Bar Association and its elections, and serving on Executive/Managing Boards and as a Senator twice. In college, I was elected Senior Chair of a student organization and performed many of the same tasks required of the SBA Vice President: planning graduation, class events, and bonding activities.

At UVA, I have served as a 1L Senator, 2L Senator, and Diversity Advisory

Committee Member on the SBA. I have also served on the Managing Board of the Virginia Law & Business Review and the Executive Board of the Black Law Students Association, where I oversee my own committee and organize UVA Law's Diversity Receptions, a formal school event for hundreds of people. I have the experience, skill, and passion to fulfill the role of Vice President and look forward to continuing to be an active participant in our student body by serving on the SBA.

Nolan Edmonson '25 Vice Presidential Candidate

My name is Nolan Edmonson, and I am running to be your next SBA Vice President. I am excited to run for a position that will have an impact on student life, and I am pleased that I will be doing so alongside my friend, and current SBA secretary, Ginny Reams.

While I have not served in SBA before, I believe my leadership experiences at this school have prepared me to meet the challenges that lie ahead. For the past year, I have served as president of the Jewish Law Students Association, and in that role, I have spearheaded initiatives to build closer bonds between JLSA mem-

bers through a number of activities. Enriching the student experience, refreshing the organization, and creating opportunities for collaborative ideas have been my watchwords as president, and they would guide me in this role as well.

The role of vice president requires that I work closely with SBA committees to ensure their goals for the year become reality. Our campaign would see to it that committees have concrete goals heading into the start of the year so that the programming like Mental Health Week and Spirit Week can be expectations that are guaranteed to every student. Part of that goal setting requires accountability on the part of SBA to follow through with what it plans. To that end, our campaign will create a "rolling" calendar of important dates to help students set their schedules so that they can maximize their involvement in SBA programming. Ideally, this calendar will include relevant information such as ticketing procedures and timelines to make the process of engagement as stress-free as possible.

Additionally, SBA must prioritize its relationships with student organizations

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HOT BENCH



Isabel Cook '25

Interviewed by Brent Rice '25

Hi, Isabel! Thanks for joining me for this week's Hot Bench. To get started, I recently saw your name on a school-wide email blast with the prestigious title of Head Field Monitor. Can you tell me more about that?

I don't know about prestigious, but I am pretty excited to be helping out with this year's

UVA Law Softball Tournament! We're welcoming dozens of other law schools to Grounds for a really fun weekend (and raising money for a good cause), so I really encourage everyone to get involved by volunteering as a Field Monitor.

Great, let's get back to basics. Where are you from, where did you go for undergrad, and what were you up to before coming to law school?

I'm from Columbia, South Carolina, and went down the road (literally) to the University of South Carolina. Go Cocks!!! After undergrad, I worked as a legal assistant at a criminal defense firm. Somehow that didn't deter me from applying to law school.

It seems that you've been on this path for a bit of a while. With that said, what would you be doing right now if you hadn't come to law school?

Given that I was a History/Political Science double major, probably toiling away in some other grad program with worse employment outcomes. Maybe doing astrological readings for money.

What brought you to UVA?

Honestly, it was always my top choice—and when I visited Grounds, it only reaffirmed that this was where I wanted to be. I really fell for the school's focus on quality of life and collegiality, which luckily have turned out to be more than just talking points. Although I was extremely disappointed to get here and find out that kegs in the library are a far-off dream of law students past.

I heard you had a bit of an unusual start to 1L Fall. Can you tell me more about that?

I managed to pick up COVID-19 on the D.C. Metro right before school started and had to miss orientation, so I didn't ex-

actly get to make a good first impression. My section endearingly dubbed me "Weird COVID Girl." I got over the COVID part but have yet to beat the "weird" allegations.

The spring semester is certainly jam-packed with lots of events. Is there anything you are particularly looking forward to right now?

Even though there are so many fun things going on at the Law School, I'm probably most looking forward to seeing Mason Ramsey at the Jefferson in March. I can't believe how far Walmart Yodel Boy has come. I hope Lil Nas X comes out for a guest appearance.

Lightning round! Favorite late-night food?

Cookout, of course.

I'm glad to see another Cookout stan in the UVA Law community. For those who are still working on

perfecting their order, can you share your go-to menu items?

Chicken tender tray with double onion rings and a chocolate peanut butter milkshake. (BYO Lactaid.)

What's an overrated superpower?

Time travel.

What is your least favorite sound?

CHEWING NOISES.

Would you rather wear a Clemson jersey for one day or be cold-called every day for the rest of law school?

Cold-called!!!! No question.

Favorite class so far?

It's really hard to pick, but I'd have to say Civil Rights Litigation with Jeffries.

SBA

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which are the lifeblood of the student experience at this school. Speaking from personal experience, as a leader of a student organization, it was not always clear who on SBA I should turn to if I wanted to collaborate on events. Under our leadership, we would endeavor to reach out to organizations to collaborate on a wide range of events all with the intended goal of building community and fostering a sense of belonging among everyone at the Law School. In addition to reaching out, Ginny and I want to empower students to come to us with ideas that they might also have. With that in mind, we plan to open the SBA office to weekly office hours so that we can hear from students who want to be heard.

Ginny and I want to work for the betterment of the student body—enhancing and enriching the student experience at the Law School. We feel that our combined leadership experience and desire to build community will be invaluable in accomplishing that task. But it cannot be done alone. We need you and your support when you go to vote for SBA President and Vice President. We hope

to have the opportunity to work tirelessly on your behalf.

Rahul Ramesh '25 Vice Presidential Candidate

Hey everyone! My name is Rahul Ramesh and I am running on a ticket for SBA Vice President alongside Laura-Louise, Asha, Mark, and Amelia.

The community at UVA Law means the world to me. I've been so fortunate to have met my best friends here and to have received incredible support from the faculty. My primary motivation for running for SBA Vice President is to pay back to this community all that it has given to me. It is my desire that all students feel a sense of belonging and comfort at the Law School, and I believe there is a lot SBA can do to accomplish that goal.

Our campaign is organized around six constitutive elements: Accountability, Communication, Transparency, Inclusivity, Vibes, and Engagement (ACTIVE). From our perspective, these are crucial ingredients for any functional student government. They make certain that messaging to the broader student body is consistent and reliable and also ensure that student organizations

are always well-supported and given ample notice. Perhaps more importantly, they also speak to the importance of approachability. For too long, SBA has operated as a cordoned-off entity, often leaving student organizations in the dark about their next steps. In contrast, the ACTIVE campaign is fundamentally about centering student organizations and the student experience, rather than about preserving unimportant hierarchies between organizations. We will always be available to you, we will always set clear and realistic expectations, and above all, we will always prioritize your pursuits.

This year, as SBA treasurer, I've had the opportunity to work with a whole host of organizations and to play a part in organizing countless events from SBA after-school socials and 1L finals support to Fauxfield and 3@3. As a consequence of that work, I am also keenly aware of the procedural cracks and fissures in the communicative network between student organizations and SBA. Going forward, we want SBA to operate in a more proACTIVE fashion: consistently reaching out to organizations to facilitate new partnerships and events, raising awareness for

organizations and causes in rapidly developing areas of the law, and strengthening the relationship between the law school and the broader Charlottesville community.

It is no secret that law school can, at times, feel like an impossible demand. UVA Law distinguishes itself from the field because it can go to great lengths to help us connect with one another and create formative relationships. Whether it's visiting the Sunset Series for the first time with your 1L section, wondering where the time went at the Midway Toast with your 2L peers, or reminiscing about the good times at the 3L Bonfire, there is so much that the Law School has to offer when it focuses on creating space for each and every student. However, it is also true that there are times when UVA Law falls short of its promise of belonging and collegiality. 2024 is slated to be a massive year for our community. Against the backdrop of a new Dean of the Law School, a likely contentious national election, and ongoing geopolitical turmoil, I believe it has never been more important to center the student voice and to be cognizant of how deeply we can all be affected by what happens in the world. While

SBA is certainly not a curative, our vision for the role of student government begins from a position of care and desire to support students facing a plethora of overlaying challenges. The path forward, we believe, is for SBA to remain ACTIVE and work tirelessly with student organizations to ensure that all students feel welcome and heard.

Barrister's Snapshot



LOVE

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the event. Caitlin Clarke '26 said, "I thought the event was so much fun. It's always nice to get out of the Law School bubble and meet new people. I got to hear about a day in the life of a med student. We're here studying theory about property and con law, they're dissecting cadavers and assisting in labor and delivery a mile away. It was a great way to spend Valentine's Day and I'm sure there are some power couples in the making after the mixer." I, for one, am very relieved we gave the med students a chance to have Valentines who weren't cadavers. <3

Life can be very isolating, as can graduate programs. It's easy to forget the magic of connecting with someone, romantic or not, especially when there is a constant barrage of journal tryouts, summer plans, interviews, outlines, etc. But as Toni Morrison said, "It's not possible to constantly hold on to crisis. You have to have the love and you have to have the magic." From simple observation alone, I can't tell how many moments of magic or ~love connections~ were forged, but there was certainly an abundance of conversation and laughter.

And it's always nice to get brought back to reality when you're met with blank stares verging on outright judgment when you and a section mate start discussing the frustrations of statutory interpretation.⁶ Plus, as Paul said, "Nothing screams self-love like being lied to about a bar tab and then buying your own drink!" I'd argue that we could distill that down to, "Nothing says love like being lied to and then drinking," but that's just me.

If you did meet the love of your life at this event, let us know! We will personally take you to an even brighter venue to test your love further—maybe under the blinding lights of an OR? Since statistically, you probably fell for a med student. At any rate, here's to getting through the rest of the semester, and hopefully to a continued collegiality/awkward middle school dance vibe with the other schools. Thanks for putting this together, SBA. You are my Valentine, even though I think most of our dates could be emails (but that's just my own avoidant attachment. I'm afraid of just *how much*

⁶ One med student: "Are you even talking about something real right now?" Honestly valid. Immediately humbled.

I want to be at those meetings).

p.s. I didn't meet a single Darden person at this event, and I was on the alert specifically for Patagonia vests. What gives? Was there a competing Deloitte-sponsored mixer no one told us about? Did someone scare them away by saying there was a limit on IPAs? Rude.

ncd8kt@virginia.edu
alj3emz@virginia.edu

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