You've Survived Your First Month of Law School

Rod Rummelburg ('98)

Welcome to Loyola Law School. You have completed your first month of law school, and if you are reading this, you have survived. If you are a first year evening student, all your lectures are in Merrifield Hall. Your whole world revolves around Merrifield Hall. Now is the time to take a breath. Look past the Bar Banners tables, and take in some of the Loyola sights and sounds.

To the west of Merrifield Hall stands Burns Hall. It was designed by world-famous architect Frank Gehry, who realized after the building was completed that he had forgotten to include any staircases. Mr. Gehry quickly remedied this with several day laborers, some scrap metal, and a blow torch. The result is striking. Any lesser architect would have stopped at this point. But not Mr. Gehry. He did not want future generations to remember him by his staircase fiasco. So he painted Burns Hall bright yellow. . . . Pure genius. You hardly notice the gray staircase appendages jutting out from the four-story tall banana.

Staircase planning is not a Loyola strong point. Take, for example, Rains Library. To enter into the first floor of the library, you must first climb the stairs to the second floor and ride an elevator back down to the first floor. Or, to get to the 3rd floor of Casassa Building, you must enter the Rains Building, walk up a flight of stairs to the second floor, walk over an arched bridge to the Casassa Building, go down the Hall of the 70s, burrow under Donovan Hall, and climb a second flight of stairs. Based on the staircase situation, it is clear that Mr. Gehry had a hand in designing the Rains and Casassa buildings, but abandoned them as a lost cause. (Historical continued on page 12)

SUPPORT THE PILF AUCTION

Jim Dunn ('98)

On the evening of Saturday October 21, 1995, PILF will hold its annual auction. Not only is it the best party of the year, but the money we raise goes to the best of causes. The essays that follow present some examples.

Each year PILF awards a number of Summer Fellowships. The amount we raise determines the number of fellowships we can give, and they go to you and your fellow students. The application process begins in the spring, and fellowships are available for all students. If you'd like to work on the auction, or know someone who can make a tax deductible donation of an item or service to be auctioned, call us at (213) 733-8116.

Over the three years that the PILF Summer Fellowship has been in existence, Loyola students have served at various public interest organizations, including: AIDS Project L.A., Appalachian Legal Research and Defense Fund, Black Law Institute, Camden N.J. Regional Legal Services, El Rescate, Legal Aid Foundation, Legal Corps of L.A., Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, National Whistleblower Center, the Center for Human Rights And Constitutional law, San Diego Volunteer Lawyers, Harriet Buhai Center, Justice Para Naturaleza, Women's Advocacy Project, Protection & Advocacy, Inc., CARECEN, and Bet Tzedek. PILF Summer Fellows have provided over 8,100 of legal assistance to the underrepresented here in L.A. and throughout the country.

Last summer we were able to support seven students, and these essays convey something of their experience.
**Summer in Appalachia**

David Paul Bleistein

"Yeah, babe, I'm a gorgeous hunk and we both know it!" The male deer stood tall above the rest of the herd, Arnold Schwarzenegger with 11-point antlers flacked in brown velvet, supported by a muscular neck and a heavily muscled graceful body. Thirty deer stood dead- still, heads cocked, nostrils flaring, eyes swiveling in sockets, scanning the world for danger. It looked like some truck driver said to hell with it, and left a load of lawn ornaments in the K-Mart parking lot. The deer sensed me lurking around the corner of the store, hugging the brick wall, spying on them. Then, they snort-barked with alarm and leaped in one graceful wave into the dark forest and disappeared.

I spent ten weeks of the summer of 1994 in Somerset, population 12,000 Pulasky County, Kentucky, clerking with the Appalachian Legal Research and Defense Fund (APPLRED), a public salon and maybe a gas interest law firm. It told the curious station with a sneakered that I worked to protect the poor attendant...

Cumberland was full of fish, snapping turtles, waterfowl and people partying endlessly on boats. Some fish were huge like the giant lake sturgeon someone photographed hanging almost a foot off each end of an old Cadillac. The woods were everywhere, filled with fascinating flowers, mammals, birds and insects. If you were so inclined, you could hunt deer and ducks in season.

And, surprise, surprise, Pulasky County had a nightclub scene. Not like the Sunset Strip, but thriving nevertheless. I lived about five blocks from the Silver Eagle, in downtown Somerset. It was a C&W (country & western) dance hall. The music usually was good to excellent; most of the bands drinking beer on the front steps of our funky, old, apartment house.

One night, some kids broke into a bank and amused a jeering crowd outside by out-running the cops for almost an hour. Other crimes weren't silly at all. A jogger found near-skeletal human remains in a field near a post subdivision. They'd only been there a week; bodies rot fast in a 90°F. Kentucky summer, leaving tarry stains like shadows on the grass. The victims turned out to be a young woman and her 4-year-old half brother who had disappeared.

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**Pulasky County isn't some Volvo-infested yuppie exurbia.**

Pulasky county was clearly ready for bigger and better things in Nashville, 150 miles to the west. I have to concede that I did miss the beer; drinkin' and cheatin' songs really needed aluminum cans to crush in your fist.

My favorite night spot was the West-60, on U.S. route 80, just of Somerset. The '60 was a corrugated metal barn. It was a jenixx family operation; grammaw took the money at the door, mamma minded the food counter, dad and uncle acted as bouncers and the kids played in the band. Unlike the 'Eagle', you could bring your kids to the '60 and many people did, some as young as toddlers. It was more like a wedding reception every week than a night club.

The crime rate in Pulasky was lower than LA, but crime was far from nonexistent. Some crimes were almost silly; my next-door neighbors all got hauled off to the pokey for the heinous crime of over the fourth of July weekend. So far, no suspects. Another killing was less mysterious but no less tragic. A man shot his estranged wife to death on the front lawn of their house while the neighbors watched. Then the husband shot himself. Their obituaries were published on separate days.

Pulasky county's population was only about 45,000 but it was a sort of mini-big-city compared with nearby counties, like McCreary, population about 15,000. McCreary's county seat, Whitley City had a population of just over a thousand. The McCreary County Courthouse still had iron horseshoe-heat hichitts posted out front, a broad lawn with lots of big trees and no parking meters.

As the out-of-town law clerk, I got invited to many outings and parties. One of the best outings continued on page 13 Appalachian
the landmark cases regarding which has argued and won many of before this Summer ends; and firm and public interest organization this guy than I could ever have imagined. 2) he and I will either hate each other or love each other before this Summer ends; and 2) the space and three times the support staff. Case files are piled in boxes along every wall. The mysteries and missing pieces within the filing system would send Sherlock Holmes reaching for his opium. Sometimes, no one is there to answer the phone during business hours. And their softball team is the worst in the city’s non-profit league... well, second worst. The worst team in the league is Greenpeace, because they can’t play very well in Birkenstocks and they just can’t seem to bring themselves to hit cowhide with any passion at all. I was one of six legal interns this Summer at NWC, and only one of two first-year students. My work was funded by Loyola’s Public Interest Law Foundation, to whom I will always be grateful. The schools represented ranged from Yale to Tulane to others I’d never heard of. Each of us worked closely with one of the several staff lawyers. For worked on, the issue I dealt with most deeply was whether the Secretary of Labor’s edict that hush money provisions cannot be includ ed in whistleblower settlement agreements should be upheld by federal courts. Of course, we argued that they should be, but nuclear power plants argued that the Secretary was abusing his discretion. Watch for Carolina Power & Light Co. v. Secretary of Labor in the Fourth Circuit and Porter v. Brown & Root in the Fifth circuit to see how it goes. As I wrote to my friends back in L.A.: “they work me like I know what I’m doing.” Which I did not, at least not at first. On one assignment, given to me during a staff meeting, I was asked to draft a response to opponent’s motion to suppress surreptitiously taped recorded conversations between our client and the opponent. Stephen asked me to find a way to get it admitted and to make sure “we don’t have a better evidence rule problem.” Not yet having enjoyed the benefit of Professor Gold’s Evidence lectures, I raised my hand sort of sheepishly and asked: “what’s the best evidence rule?” After the snickering died down, Stephen said “I guess I better let you out of the meeting early so you can go find out.” So it was like that... swim or play plastic diving man to some disinterested catfish on the bottom of that murky fish tank some call the Potomac. And that is what made the Summer great, that gauntlet, that urgency, that relentless demand to produce your best because there’s no time for mediocrity. It was- 

There is no time for mediocrity. It was about doing what I had committed three years to learn to do, and finding out I loved doing it. It was also about making a great friend and mentor in Stephen Kohn. And finally, it was about gratitude... realizing that as fundamentally lonely as life can sometimes be, no one ever really gets anywhere all by themselves. Without PILF, my friends here in L.A., my colleagues at NWC, and the fruit stand guy who gave me bananas when I had no money for lunch, this Summer would have just been about a job: Instead this Summer was about experience, in the fullest and richest sense of that word.
I believe...that the moral sense is as much a part of our constitution as that of feeling, seeing, or hearing...For every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another." - Thomas Jefferson

When I wrote my proposal for the PILF Fellowship, I included this quote as a basis, as the underlying reason for my desire to do public interest work. Throughout my life I have participated in numerous philanthropic organizations and activities, and I have strong convictions about this idea of a "moral sense," but I did not realize the levels it could be taken to until my experience this summer. The work I had done in the past was undoubtedly very fulfilling, but there was something about combining my moral sense with my education that surpassed this type of fulfilled feeling. From my previous efforts, this work involved more than just contributing my time and lending the proverbial helping hand, it involved legal skill, good judgment, tenacity and compassion.

As I had hoped, my internship with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP) gave me the opportunity to work in several areas of public interest law, exposing me to many interesting clients and communities within the county. The majority of my time was spent in the areas of social security/disability, domestic violence and AIDS, and whenever the schedule allowed, I assisted the family law team. My supervisor, Jerry Polansky, made every effort to see that I was given a variety of assignments so that I could not only develop my legal skills, but that I could see how all the aspects of public interest law operate in conjunction with one another.

A typical week at SDVLP would involve clinical work, legal research, client interviews and correspondence, but I have to say that apart from the nature of the work, there was no such thing as a "typical week." Every day brought unexpected developments and every assignment had its challenges, some of which I had no way of knowing what they would cause me to do in a way in which I had never been challenged before. Although it was tiring at times, it had been one of the most beneficial aspects of the internship because I was always learning more about the law, about our society or, as was often the case, about myself. By the same token, I feel that this is one of the most beneficial aspects of public interest law in general because regardless of which area it is, the people you encounter and the issues you come into contact with, are in some way or another a unique understanding of not only the law, but of society as a whole as well as yourself as an individual.

In addition, as a legal scholar, I found this to be especially true in the area of domestic violence. Throughout the summer, I did an internship with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program and spent two weeks at the domestic violence clinic. This experience opened my eyes to the whole world that had always been right in front of me, but had never been acknowledged in my mind as the problem it truly is. While I had read about the legal issues and been told the statistics concerning domestic violence, I had never thought about how the cycle of violence occurs, how it affects our society or how I could take action to stop it. Many of the clients I came into that clinic were in very serious, imminent danger and over the course of the summer, I learned to analyze their situations, take the appropriate legal action and help them to safety, so to speak. Their sense of urgency for someone to actually listen and help really made me feel like I had the power to change their lives, like I could help them empower themselves.

Most of my efforts at the clinic were spent interviewing clients and filing temporary restraining orders to be presented to the judge in ex parte hours. The process included writing a declaration, explaining in specific detail what had happened in the last 30 days to constitute the request and the relationship between the parties which provided the reason the order should be granted. This was usually the most difficult part of the clinic for me because people are not always willing to tell a stranger that type of information and I was not always comfortable trying to get it out of them, especially when the children were present. Also, as it is often the case with domestic violence, I dealt with many "reluctant plaintiffs," which can be the most challenging clients of all. Some of these women would come into the clinic with a black eye or bite mark, and leave the clinic without their restraining order because they were either too afraid of angering their batterer further or because they loved them too much to take this type of action against them. It was absolutely astounding to witness this first hand and it was difficult for me to comprehend why I was having to talk them into getting the order.

In addition, I had to be cautious in the way I presented the information to the client. Unless very precise, persuasive language is used, the court is not going to grant the order. In my opinion, this reflected the general perception of domestic violence - what had in fact been my perception prior to working at the clinic - and this is one of the instances in which I learned as much about society and myself as I did about the law. Granted, the experience I gained interviewing the clients, doing legal research, working with the family court, writing declarations and filing orders was extremely educational, but the first hand experience I gained with the problem as a liaison between the victim, the perpetrators and the justice system was just as educational. It was not something I could have been taught to me in a casebook or through the Socratic method. While this experience presented some new unsettling insights, I always left the clinic feeling that I had done something significant with my time and that in some way, my view of things had been altered another degree.

This is not to say that my other experiences were not equally eye-opening, but they were in different ways. In fact, the work I did with SDVLP's disabled clients was probably the most educational I have come across in a purely legal sense. For the most part I conducted interviews with clients who were in pursuit of their social security benefits. I was to establish what the basis of the claim was, how the evidence they had could help or hinder them, what was the best legal argument that could be made on their behalf and to what extent SDVLP could assist them at their administrative law hearing. Because many of the clients suffered from mental impairments, these interviews had a tendency to become much more complex than they needed to be and I had to adopt my own way of obtaining the information I needed for SDVLP's purposes while building a rapport with the client. I had to be creative at times and often take a roundabout way of drawing out certain facts, which as I quickly learned, is just part of my lawyer's job, especially when in the public interest arena. It was not easy to find the delicate balance between playing my part and just trying to get the information out of them while keeping the client focused on the issues at hand.

As far as my long term goals are concerned, this part of internship was really productive because I am considering a career in elder law and disability. It is obviously a central focus of that area of law, and it is one where clients really need help. As downtrodden as some of their situations were, I was always a bright spot to the encounter when they shook my hand, and I gave the sincerest of thanks. Thinking with the knowledge that they really did need my help and they really did appreciate it.

In addition to the client interaction, I spent quite a bit of time doing legal research and writing on social security issues. Of course, these skills can always be improved upon and I received a lot of valuable feedback from my mentor, which will prove to be beneficial for me if I go into this area of law. While most law students perform this kind of work in their perspective jobs, I feel that I personally gained more from it than the average in that I learned something besides how to use the Code of Federal Regulations and write a legal memorandum. As I was sorting through the overwhelming amount of information, trying to find exactly what I was looking for, trying to find the central theme and putting it into an understandable way while adhering to volumes of rules and regulations, I realized how complex this system is in this country. I do not see how someone continued on page 11 "Moral Sense"
Needless to say, it was disturbing to witness how U.S. foreign policy dictates the number of asylum grants for applicants from a particular country.

Under VAWA, battered immigrant women are eligible to apply for suspension of deportation after residing in the U.S. for three years, rather than the customary seven or ten year wait. Before VAWA, many immigrant women were trapped in abusive relationships because their immigration status was dependent upon the legal status of their husbands. This provision provides immigrant women with an opportunity to leave their abusers without damaging their immigration status.

Because of the novelty of this issue, a large portion of the brief focused on the client’s suspension claim. The brief detailed the congressional intent behind VAWA, as well as the specifics of the VAWA immigration provisions. It also argued that the traditional standard of review for suspension claims must be broadened to reflect the unique situation of battered immigrant women.

Traditionally, a suspension applicant must show that he or she would experience extreme hardship if deported to the country of origin. This particular aspect of review raises certain issues, such as the lack of counseling services and legal protection for victims of domestic abuse in the country of origin, the nature and extent of the abuse, and any counseling or medical treatment the applicant is currently receiving. The brief examined these factors independently and in light of the particular facts of the client’s case.

Besides improving my legal writing skills, this case presented me with the unique opportunity to work with leading experts on domestic violence and immigrant women. To aid in establishing extreme hardship, additional documentation needed to be compiled. Attorneys from other legal service organizations nationwide assisted in detailing the fact of psychological services, general health services, and legal protection for battered women in the client’s country of origin, and the ready availability of such services and protection in California.

Each of the projects described above provided me with the opportunity to further my legal research and writing skills while learning more about a particularly interesting area of immigration law. In addition to the practical legal experience I gained, it was extremely refreshing to work with attorneys clearly dedicated to the ideals of public interest law. It certainly reinvigorated my commitment to pursuing a public interest legal career.

I would strongly encourage other Loyola students to volunteer at CARECEN. It could prove to be an invaluable experience—perhaps by redirecting your career path to an area of public interest law or, at a minimum, offering you the opportunity for practical legal experience while assisting CARECEN in its provision of essential legal services to members of our community.

Any interested students may contact me at 738-1125.

Stacie Ace Flores
Killed by a drunk driver on March 23, 1993, on Pacific Coast Highway in Wilmington, Calif.

FRIENDS DON’T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

The Loyola Reporter is published by students for the students, faculty and alumni of Loyola Law School of Los Angeles. Any opinion expressed in the Loyola Reporter is that of the author and not necessarily the opinion of the Loyola Reporter, the Day or Evening Student Bar Associations, or Loyola Law School. Any person may submit photos, articles, opinions or letters to the editor. Publication is subject to the discretion of the editorial board and is not guaranteed. Most articles and stories submitted become property of the Loyola Reporter and will not be returned. However, we will return all disks as long as we are provided with a student/group mailbox number. Submissions and inquiries should be delivered to the information desk on the second floor of the Burns building or to the Loyola Reporter office in the Rains building (behind the Moot Court) or (213) 738-8117.

The LOYOLA REPORTER, 1915 Albany St., L.A., P.O. Box 15019] CA 90015-0019
Bet Tzedek Legal Services
Micheline Cobin

This summer, I worked as a law clerk at Bet Tzedek Legal Services in Los Angeles. Bet Tzedek provides free legal assistance to low-income persons, and many of our clients are elderly and/or disabled. Because our clients are often both poor and isolated (and often senior citizens), they are vulnerable to many problems that threaten their security, health, and dignity: nursing-home violations, loss of welfare and health benefits, fraud, and eviction. By offering effective legal representation, Bet Tzedek aims to protect seniors from these problems.

Bet Tzedek is the principal supplier of critical legal assistance to low-income seniors in the Los Angeles County Area. Through the operation of a main office in Los Angeles, satellite offices in San Fernando Valley, and weekly visits to over 25 nursing homes, hospitals, and private residences, Bet Tzedek provides services to over 10,000 clients a year.

Recognizing that Bet Tzedek's work is of paramount importance, both the City and County of Los Angeles have made Bet Tzedek the exclusive grant recipient of all funds mandated by the Older Americans Act of 1993. This law recognizes the special legal problems this group faces and provides partial funding to meet these needs.

Besides taking on individual cases to protect the rights of elderly persons, Bet Tzedek works on impact litigation that affects thousands of people. Recent cases include a challenge to the constitutionality of a state law that gave nursing homes and physicians a sweeping authority to declare residents incompetent, and then withhold or impose treatment at will. This successful fight for the autonomy of nursing home residents is just one example of the important work done at Bet Tzedek.

I first became interested in Bet Tzedek when I met Robin Sommerstein, the personnel director, during on-campus interviews at Loyola. I had an opportunity to discuss with her both the purpose and need for Bet Tzedek's work, as well as the duties and responsibilities of a summer law clerk. I became excited about this opportunity and was happy to receive an offer for employment.

One of the best feelings I had at work came from talking to and helping clients who might otherwise have been homeless in a matter of days.

My first three days at Bet Tzedek were spent with about fifteen other law clerks in orientation. My fellow students and I, along with Bet Tzedek's staff, learned about what our specific duties as a law clerk would be.

We spent the three days going carefully over a large packet of information about dealing with the different kinds of legal issues we soon be encountering in our work with real clients. Included were sample letters, forms, and documents we would be handling with each of the various types of issues. The first day was spent learning about Supplemental Security Income cases related to disability and overpayment. We also spent time going over many valuable interviewing techniques. The second day involved going through such problems as unlawful detention, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and consumer remedies, and unemployment benefits. The last day we went over bankruptcy, conservatorship, guardianship, and powers of attorney. The three days of orientation gave me an overview of how to deal with the wide range of legal issues I soon began to deal with on a daily basis throughout the summer.

The summer I continued following the last day of orientation, I was given ten client files to start with. Each file was connected to a specific Bet Tzedek case handled by someone, for which legal work continued to be necessary. Each was in a different stage of the legal process. Throughout the summer I continued to be given more files. When assigned a case, I would meet with the particular lawyer supervising it, which was either Marc Bender or June Eicker. They brought me up to date about the case. I was advised as to the client's legal problem, what had happened so far in each case, and what would be occurring next. I also discussed with them the next steps to take in each case, along with various strategies that might be possible. After this initial meeting with the lawyer, it would usually be necessary for me to do research into each client's specific legal problems in order to ascertain the best course of action to take. I would also spend a great deal of time gathering additional information about each case. I would make numerous phone calls to clients to gain more specific facts about their situations, for example, dates, times, financial information, etc. I also spent time contacting bureaucratic organizations to see how my client's issues were being handled or to gain various pieces of information. Sometimes it was necessary to gather information about notaries and public recorders. Another duty I frequently undertook for various cases was to go on a home visit. This was often necessary when a client was home-bound and could not come into the Bet Tzedek offices for an interview. I also had to visit clients places in order to observe, assess, and document problem areas. This often involved making phone calls and going there. This was most often necessary for cases in which a client had a legal dispute with their landlord. Some client were being threatened with eviction. Others were living in conditions that were not habitable and were being sued by their landlords because they had chosen not to pay rent. The conditions were repaired. They left in their home in the meantime, but the whole process took several months. This was an example of the important work that Bet Tzedek does.

An example of a case I handled would be student loan fraud. A client would be induced to borrow several thousand dollars in federal loans to attend a technical school. The funds would go directly to the school, and then, following a few months or years, the school would close. The client would find himself in repayment difficulties. The funds had been spent on the school, and the client would be left with a large debt.

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The Center provides assistance to individuals who are not charged for their legal representation. This is extremely helpful to clients who may not be able to afford traditional legal services. The Center relies on volunteers supported by a small staff. Anyone is willing to undergo training and make a small commitment to the Center can be a volunteer regardless of whether or not they have a legal background. Most clients are seen in the context of a clinic. In a clinic several clients at the same stage in a similar family law proceeding are led through the preparation of the pleadings by a volunteer. The clients are divided into dissolution, I and III, and paternity, I, II, and III. Clients are also helped on an individual basis according to their particular circumstances or if a client doesn't fit into one of these categories. All clients are supervised by one of the staff attorneys.

The clients are given as much time as necessary for them to understand the legal proceeding they are involved in and its consequences. The staff goes out of their way to be very patient with the clients. If someone doesn't understand the staff explains everything and gives the client written instructions in very simple language and go over and over the material until the client understands it. The Center has a staff entirely dedicated to helping people. There are four attorneys: Betty Nordwind, Executive Director, Maria Salas-Mendoza, Director of Education, Training and Volunteers, Dominick Contreras, Assistant Attorney, in charge of child support issues and Julia Reuschmeyer, Staff Attorney, in addition to the clients' attorneys. The staff usually knows clients on an individual basis because they take the time to listen to the client's circumstances and concerns.

I felt extremely lucky to have the most contact of all the legal interns. During the summer there were four other legal interns who worked at the Center. I worked the most with clients because of my prior experience. Prior to coming to law school I volunteered for a year at the Maynard Toll in Pro Persona Legal Clinic, a project of the Los Angeles Legal Aid Foundation, helping low income clients in the preparation of family law pleadings. Spring semester I completed an externship with Maynard Toll in Pro Persona Legal Clinic last semester. I felt very confident and well trained to help clients. My first week at the Center I volunteered and lead a clinic when the volunteer canceled at the last minute. This was the beginning of a very hectic summer. My goal in choosing the Buhai Center to work with was to have a varied experience. I was able to work on two to five month backlog at the Center. Working at Maynard Toll we would often refer clients to the Buhai Center. There was a time when I had no clients to refer clients knowing it would be several months before they would have access to help. I did as much as possible to turn the backlog and by the end of the summer I had seen all my clients. I worked with several emergency cases. During my time at the Center I was able to help clients who didn't show up for an appointment. Because I had a real problem with the fact that a client had to use their own resources as well as time although I understood the Center's rationale for this situation. I also saw my stand-by appointment scheduled for me several hours before we finished with the regular appointment. I would advise the standby appointment that they might not be scheduled for a long time and several hours while I finished the regular appointment but I would help them as soon as possible. I made this many working lunches.

My work at the Buhai Center involved mostly working with clients, projects, and research. I really enjoyed working with clients. Research was not as tedious because it applied to a real life person with a real legal problem. I enjoyed working on the projects because they often involved some aspect of making the Center's service better.

Our first couple days at the Center comprised orientation. We got a basic understanding of the workings and services of the Center. We were given a 700 page manual to read and our respective list of projects. We were told the list of projects wasn't expected to be completely completed but we were to accomplish as much as possible. After taking several days to read the manual and other orientation materials I began working on my projects. I identified the most frequently asked questions on the list and began. By Friday I had familiarized myself with several cases which needed to be researched and began researching the issues at our law library.

The Buhai Center with a very limited budget, has a very limited, that had happened in the center's case. For a non-profit organization with such a small staff I was appreciative that we had been given the opportunity to work on an incomplete file. I would review not only pleadings filed in the client's case but also notes made by anyone who had helped handle the case as well as the Center's own questionnaires. Sometimes depending on the client's case it would take me one to several hours to familiarize myself with their case.

There were many clients who I will always remember. I would love to tell you about each and every client but it would violate confidentiality to speak about the clients and their particular cases. For the most part the clients were very appreciative to get our help. Most clients took the time to thank me and seemed to appreciate the service provided by the Center. Some of the clients were very frustrated by the legal system. The clients would start by telling me their case on the phone and their cases were told very realistically about how long their case would take and the steps they would have to take in order to win. There were various stages of their legal proceedings were more understandable depending on how much experience they already had with the judicial process. Because of the professionalism exhibited by the Buhai Center the clients got upset with the Center. Whenever possible the staff went out of their way to accommodate client inter- ests. The attorney client relationship was highly valued and the staff adhered to a strict confidentiality standard.

Often my work with the clients would overlap with projects. Several of my projects involved ongoing research on particular cases. One of my projects was to compile the list of clients who had just started coming to the Center. Her case had been going on since 1982, she couldn't afford a lawyer anymore and the case was so extensive that it took me several days just to organize the file. My efforts paid off very shortly because once I got the case organized it was referred very quickly to a private attorney who agreed to handle the case pro bono. I also worked on organizing the Center's file cabinet. The file cabinet contained sample pleadings and points and authorities for situations which didn't come up very often and usually weren't covered in the research of the sample letters for parties not directly involved in a case like the other par- ty's emergency. I also helped organize the file cabinet because it took me the entire ten weeks to finish the filing cabinet organizing it so the material was readily accessible. I continued organizing the file cabinet because I continued on page 12

Harriet Buhai
Defining Public Interest in Trans-Cultural Litigation
Jose Fuentes

Sitting in a plastic seat looking at the faces and hearing the voices. They look young but dress and speak old. They are excited and already planning the night activities for their first major two week summer campership sponsored by Costa Rica. They are the squanderers, the wasters, the polluters of the world. From their behavior you can infer that they lack any environmental conscious. But, you can not blame them. Everything has always been taken care of by some one else.

I am trapped with them for three hours in a capsule and have to hear about their stupid ideas to work them hard. They are loud and do not seem to consider other interests besides their own. If they could just pause for a second and appreciate their surroundings then the capsule would be a better environment.

In my space I read about a State Tourism Corporation that wreaked havoc in Central American countries. "Well, the Dominican Republic is not fruitful for the law so lets move to Costa Rica. They have land to be developed and tourist to be taken care of. We will make home away from home for the tourist class."

Through the fog, I can see lights and rolling mountains and forest. The fog engulfs us and shakes us up and the voice cease. We are spat out and the tires hit the ground. There are a few claps and I roll my eyes.

I speak spanish to the immigration officer but he is skeptical. Your language is different and you look different, besides you have long hair and speak funny. What are you doing in school do you go to? Where are your school papers? think to myself, "are you going to arrest me or let me in". Have a good stay.

Well the garble above captures what my summer would be like in Costa Rica. Trans-cultural experience like trans-cultural litigation takes a lot of understanding and patience. To elaborate on this theme I will talk about the Costa Rican culture, their lawyers, and the cases I work on. Through my observaton I hope to convey the message that public interest work is important, and that the people you are representing, the people you are working with and in general respecting the sovereign identity of other entity supports the views of yours COSTA RICAN CULTURE

The "Ticos" are a strange bunch. They can be divided into the city folks and the country people. The city folks call each other "mahes" which literally means maggot. This group while interesting and relative well educated is naive and ignorant of other groups in their society. These other groups in the Costa Rican society are the interesting ones for trans-cultural litigation. I have found in my practice the issue is that these groups face are different for women, men, and the future generations.

WOMEN IN COSTA RICA'S COUNTRY SIDE
As the rest of the world, she is a second class citizen. If she is lucky she only has 4 jobs. Some of the unlucky women have to work in banana, coco, or fruit plantations. Some have to work as maids for the transnational companies to live. Almost all at home have to work at their first or second job. The cooking, cleaning have to be done by someone. Not to mention the shopping for food and finding natural

and little foreign voice to protest what their parents and government are doing. Some of these children are already feeling this crisis as they beg in the streets without shoes for hand downs. Other's play in contaminate rivers where no biota exist and some of the new generations are born deformed. Yet, the government turns their heads in order to accommodate trans-national interests.

COSTA RICAN ATTORNEY-GENERAL
Board meeting is at 2:30 and they show up at 3:30. Some of them have to be reminded of the time and date of the meetings and even though the schedule has been the same for over a year. Hard work is not in their vocabulary or they try to keep it up. However, we have to do real work they know how to do movidas which translates into "knowing how to play the system". The system is straightforward and the people accept that it is a corrupt one. There is no hiding the ball. If you want a case to move in your favor then you show that you play a decisive role.

The team I worked for was no exception. While money was lacking since they are a non-goverment organizational the contacts where plentiful. One of the attorneys was a Supreme Court advocate. Another was an ex-judge and then there was the general prosecutor running the show. Well, not quite. The show was run by an American attorney who happens to be a female and had a wealth of international contacts.

CASE WORK IN COSTA RICA
There are a couple of cases that I worked on this summer. They both involved international law. The first case involves a law suit against a company and the second one involves a suit against the Panamanian governemnt.

GEEST Caribbean Case
The British and Bahamas incorporated transnational, GEEST CARRIBEAN, came to Costa Rica in 1990 to expand their banana business. They purchased many tracts of land on the Atlantic slope under numerous and locally incorporated business assiciations owned by GEEST DE COSTA RICA. GEEST applied to the Forestry division of the Ministry of Natural Resources for permits to clear cut lands to open banana plantations. Some permits were issued. Thousands of acres of land including primary and secondary forest were cleared.

One of the attorneys was a Supreme Court advocate. Another was an ex-judge and then there was the law professor running the show.
When the administrative staff of the state hospital learned that PAI people were on site, they freaked out (to use a complex legal term). They treated us like we were Ralph Nader showing up at Ford for a Pinto design conference.

The first calls were scary, but not much different than the interviewing part of ECN.

The patient was pleased not guilty insanity by a court appointed attorney and told the sentence would be 90 days. That was 13 years ago.

I was working on this, I got a call from a satellite staff attorney who had a guardianship issue. I excused myself to research the facility issue. It was an intense and lengthy day.

I also attended a North Los Angeles Regional Center and the Orange County Regional Center. This field work was similar to my PAI work, except there were no staff attorneys at the satellite offices, but I was surprised that I was able to answer many inquiries with limited materials. I referred some questions to the main office. At NLACRC, there were 7,400 consumers and I Client Rights Advocate so my assistance was definitely needed and appreciated. Another memorable event was a call I took from a patient at a state hospital. The patient was pleased not guilty insanity by a court appointed attorney and told the sentence would be 90 days. That was 13 years ago. I made some calls and verified the information. In consulting with attorneys, I learned that this was a common occurrence. Forensic patients in a state hospital are locked up and often forgotten about. The patient was extremely appreciative that I was just listening. I conducted a number of interviews with the patient and established direct contact between the patient and the patient right's advocate. While I was able to obtain direct assistance for this patient, there are thousands of similar patients and only one on site advocate. These are truly the forgotten people in society.

Finally, I attended a training at a state hospital with the other law clerks. When the administrative staff of the regional center learned that PAI people were on site, they freaked out (to use a complex legal term). They treated us like we were Ralph Nader showing up at Ford for a Pinto design conference. It's nice to know that PAI has an impact. We continued on page 13 Protection and Advocacy

Dov Lutzer

I knew too many lawyers who hate their jobs. Unlike many of my peers who entered law school simply to find a job, I promised myself that I would use my legal education to pursue an area of personal interest. One of those areas of interest is disability rights law. While in law school, I felt pulled to join the fray of attorneys to fight for a precious few corporate positions. I interviewed with a few big firms during OCI last year. However, I was in such extreme difficulty telling the interviewers why I wanted to work for Protection & Advocacy, Inc. I was relieved that I could answer the interviewers' questions with interest and sincerity. While excited to be offered a position, I could not afford to work for free. PILP's summer grant allowed me to work for a public interest firm and pursue an area of personal interest. I applied for and was awarded a PILP grant to work for Protection & Advocacy, Inc., which is a nonprofit corporation established in 1978 to act as the agency in California responsible for the protection of individual rights for persons with disabilities. Protection and Advocacy (PAI) has a handbook which outlines priority issues; however, disability rights laws cover every area of the law that effects individuals who do not have a disability as well as legal concerns specific to individuals with a disability. Thus, I was exposed to many different areas of the law, from criminal law to trusts and wills.

The situation tightened because I honestly had no legal education specific to disabilities law. While in law school, I was relieved because the respite hours were cut. Without the respite, their child will have to be placed outside the home, where there are appropriate and appropriate placements. I brought this to the attention of a staff attorney who agreed to represent the family at the hearing. I conducted the interview the following day. Once again, I laughed to myself because the interview was simply a replication of ECN. I was surprised at how comfortable and prepared I felt playing the role of an attorney. After the initial interview, we met with the attorney and cranked out a brief on the spot. I met with the client again to prepare for the hearing.

The next day I called the administrative law judge who was a quasi-judge. He expected me to lead and was a call back. I got a list of callers and I realized that they knew too many lawyers who hate their jobs. Unlike many of my peers who entered law school simply to find a job, I promised myself that I would use my legal education to pursue an area of personal interest. One of those areas of interest is disability rights law. While in law school, I felt pulled to join the fray of attorneys to fight for a precious few corporate positions. I interviewed with a few big firms during OCI last year. However, I was in such extreme difficulty telling the interviewers why I wanted to work for Protection & Advocacy, Inc. I was relieved that I could answer the interviewers' questions with interest and sincerity. While excited to be offered a position, I could not afford to work for free. PILP's summer grant allowed me to work for a public interest firm and pursue an area of personal interest. I applied for and was awarded a PILP grant to work for Protection & Advocacy, Inc., which is a nonprofit corporation established in 1978 to act as the agency in California responsible for the protection of individual rights for persons with disabilities. Protection and Advocacy (PAI) has a handbook which outlines priority issues; however, disability rights laws cover every area of the law that effects individuals who do not have a disability as well as legal concerns specific to individuals with a disability. Thus, I was exposed to many different areas of the law, from criminal law to trusts and wills. PAI provided immediate hands on experience. I participated in every aspect of work at PAI. I sometimes acted like an attorney and I sometimes acted like a receptionist or secretary. The summer clerks were sent information packets to read before their arrival, which provide an overview of a variety of areas of the law which PAI covers. The clerks were assigned jobs on the job were spent with an intensive overview of the materials. By the end of the week, I was put on the phones. Since PAI is a nonprofit public interest firm, it does not solicit business like a private firm. Rather, individuals in the community receive PAI's number through various forms of outreach. When a person with a disability calls, the receptionist gathers some preliminary information about the caller and the purpose of the call. I got a list of callers and I called them back, found out more about their situation and figured out what resolution was possible. The first calls were scary, but not much different than the interviewing part of ECN.

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"Battered women have a right to self-defense." — Suzanne Donovan, from Texas Council on Family Violence

"All I remember were that there were many fights and I'd lay and fight back as best I could." — Bemone Nickerson, woman convicted of killing her abuser

The Gatesville prison for women sits innocuously in the middle of a wide plain of vibrant green grass. The most imposing thing about it, the tall, gray concrete barbed wire encircling their tops. From the outside, escape appears impossible. An American woman who I’m scheduled to interview, Bemone Nickerson, a possible clemency petition candidate. I’ve been waiting to meet Jane, the person who will be interviewing Bemone. I seek refuge from the Texas heat underneath a guard tower. But the heat is inscrutable, following me even under the shade of tower. I clutch my notebook nervously and take deep breaths. I’ve never met a prisoner before. In my mind, they are "Other" or "them," terrible people who commit heinous crimes and don’t deserve the right of a day of trial. For many people, prisoners are nothing more than drug addicts, murderers, rapists, robbers, thieves and other vicious people. I’ve read her file and in it I have found a story which doesn’t fit with the stereotypes. Instead, the tells a story about an immigrant woman coped in with a world that does not value her gender or her race. Ms. Nickerson is a 26 year old, African-American woman who fought for her children demonstrates qualities available to men but not women. Without that wonder hormone known as testosteronormal, "normal" women are supposedly incapable of physical aggression. A woman who kills calls into question general social beliefs regarding the life-giving attributes of women such as nurturing, gentleness and selflessness. As a result of these attitudes, the courts punish battered women who commit less serious sentences than men who commit similar crimes. Ms. Nickerson noted that this was true even when the women used self-defense. The recent experience of a friend hints at our culture’s discernment as masculine qualities available to men but not women. Why didn’t you leave? "I didn’t leave even after I stopped loving him because I wanted my kids to have a father," she replied quietly. "I figured a father was important to them so I thought I’d stay and try to provide for them." Her conviction for voluntary manslaughter and her subsequent punishment suggest a vicious criminal who poses a danger to society. Yet, her reason for staying reveals a woman who loved her children so much she was willing to jeopardize her own life. The depth of her love for her children demonstrates qualities associated with motherhood; nurturing, selflessness and concern for others. This woman is not associated with killers and yet technologically that is how society views Ms. Nickerson. Since she stayed in the relationship, she should be deemed as best as she could to survive. Eventually, the day came when she had to kill him to ensure her own survival. A feminist critique of our culture points out that all our laws and systems of justice are based on a masculine perspective which does not account for women’s experience. This critique applies in Ms. Nickerson’s case. She stayed with her abuser because she wanted her continued on page 13

Battered Women Who Kill

Vanessa Shinmoto

Reclaiming Our Instinct for Survival: Helping Battered Women Who Kill

A chill goes through me as I hear the gate click shut behind us and I sense I’ve crossed more than just a physical boundary. Suddenly, the urge to flee descends on me and I clutch my notebook to ward it off.

People who aren’t familiar with domestic violence usually don’t recognize the instincts for self-preservation for battered women. These people constantly ask the same question: "Why didn’t she just leave?" When I explain the many reasons, financial, psychological and emotional, why women can’t leave, some people still insist that a woman should leave. Perhaps underlying their failure to understand that a battered woman’s perspective is a notion that any "self-respecting woman" would have such an awful relationship. Because they stay, battered women are "self-respecting women" and thus not worthy of our compassion, protection or help. This judgmental attitude intensifies when a battered woman kills her abuser. Other people proclaim emphatically, "She didn’t have to kill him. If she was abused, she could've just left. Leaving is always preferable to the attacker was an act of self-preservation and she didn’t think twice. She felt angry that the police officer should criticize her actions when she was trying to stay alive. In essence, he criticized her for not acting the way a woman should act when confronted with a threat. Rather than fight back, women should act passively and let a mugger take their purses. In the context of an abusive relationship, a woman should leave and not fight back. A few minutes before the interview, I locked up the guard escorts us past the fence and into a small cottage. A chill goes through me as I hear the gate click shut behind me and I clutch my notebook to ward it off. Before I enter the cottage, I look past the fence and snatch a glimpse of the other side; the side of freedom. How many, I wonder, those who have past that same fence, taking in the landscape of the other side? And how many of them were abused by husbands, lovers, boyfriends, brothers before they ended up here? We enter the cottage and another guard takes us to the interview room. It’s dark and depressing. A large thick, black wire mesh encircles the center of the room. Surrounding it is a long, cheap orange forklift- looking table, with lots of chairs perched in front. Ms. Nickerson sits on the other side of the wire mesh. I’m amazed by how everything is tightly controlled. We sit down, introduce ourselves and the interview begins. During the interview I find myself asking her the same awful question people who don’t understand asks. Why didn’t you leave? "I didn’t leave even after I stopped loving him because I wanted my kids to have a father," she said quietly. "I figured a father was important to them so I thought I’d stay and try to provide for them." Her conviction for voluntary manslaughter and her subsequent punishment suggest a vicious criminal who poses a danger to society. Yet, her reason for staying reveals a woman who loved her children so much she was willing to jeopardize her own life. The depth of her love for her children demonstrates qualities associated with motherhood; nurturing, selflessness and concern for others. This woman is not associated with killers and yet technologically that is how society views Ms. Nickerson. Since she stayed in the relationship, she should be deemed as best as she could to survive. Eventually, the day came when she had to kill him to ensure her own survival.
with a disability and no legal education or background could possibly get through the system successfully without some sort of assistance. This confirmed my convictions about this area of law more than anything else. Compassion factors into the equation, the legal issues are important and the growing number of people in this situation speaks to the inevitability of addressing this issue, but the logistics of the system first hand demonstrated to me that there is truly a need for the elderly and disabled to receive more legal representation and assistance than they have been receiving in the past.

Unfortunately, this is true in the area of AIDS as well and I realized this comparing my experience at the AIDS legal clinic to the response of the general public to AIDS. Unlike most of the areas I worked in this summer however, I was not surprised at any aspect of the AIDS problem. For the most part, everything was as I expected regarding the clients behavior, the society's response to the problem and even my own viewpoint. I learned a lot from a legal standpoint and I feel that this is an area of the law that needs to be more developed given the rapidly increasing number of AIDS victims in this country. As a student, it was great experience because I was exposed to a wide variety of legal issues; landlord-tenant, employee discrimination, property rights, trusts and wills, criminal charges, etc.

As a person though, it was a sobering experience because with every single client, I knew that regardless of how serious their legal problem was or how much we could help them or her solve it, there was so much more for them to face when they left that clinic and there was nothing anyone could do to help them. Ironically, by the time the work was complete, the clients were usually in better spirits than the attorneys and interns, and they were very appreciative for the help. While the "moral sense" is what drives people to do this type of work, it is always nice when the person is grateful for your efforts - it makes your work all the more rewarding.

In fact, after my summer with SDVLP, I feel that this rewarding feeling is what separates public interest from other areas of law. While it is true that hard work and dedication give one a sense of satisfaction and it is very fulfilling to win a big case or settlement, it is truly rewarding to know that your success has not only been a victory for you but for someone who desperately needed your help. And along the same lines, it is one thing to lend a helping hand or donate your spare time, but it is another thing to focus all of your attention and put your skills to the test in an effort to see justice done. I do not know that anything can compare to the feeling of knowing that someone's life is better because they have crossed your path; in fact I am not sure who benefits from many factors, including if the student ever completed high school, what year the school closed, and whether the federal government has taken official notice of the closing of the schools by listing it on the closed school list. Unfortunately for students caught in the student loan fraud scheme, the process of getting their loans erased takes some time. It is possible to accomplish,

SCENES FROM THE PILF AUCTION, 1994

GLUG, GLUG, GLUG!

files more, the person who needs the help or the person who gives it.

I overall, I feel that I benefited immensely from working with SDVLP and if I had to summarize however, and a diligent law clerk can assist greatly in this matter, serving as a useful advocate through the process of the appeal. One of the most important client lives in a portion of the county with rent control. There are different legal arguments and defenses available to a tenant, but the strongest protections are given under strict regulations and enforcement that is offered in rent control cities like the City of Hollywood and Santa Monica (though this has changed due to recent high profile cases regarding rent control). While clients wait in the waiting room or across the street at the Farmer's Market, I fill out the necessary legal documents by hand. These then get a preliminary check by Mark or June before someone from the secretarial staff types it up. A second review by Mark or June makes the document ready for pick up by the client, who can then take it to the appropriate courthouse for filing. On occasion, a client is disabled or unable to make the trip, and though it is rare, a clerk may be asked to take the client on short field trip out of the office. The client must go and file personally, however, because in the instance described above the client is acting "pro se", and we are not officially acting as their attorney.

One of the best feelings I had at work came from talking to and helping clients who might otherwise have been homeless in a matter of days. They often walked in the door with papers they did not fully understand what to do with, full of apprehension. I was often able to calm them down, explain their situation and options, and prepare the necessary papers for them so they could get control of their case and begin to pursue their legal rights. As a law clerk at Bet Tzedek this summer, I had an extraordinary opportunity to provide necessary legal services to one of the most under-represented groups in society. Bet Tzedek is an excellent organization that offered me important legal training in a variety of areas, ranging from client contact and advocacy to legal research and memo writing. I also drafted legal documents and prepared briefs and witnesses for administrative hearings. I enjoyed developing these valuable legal skills while providing an essential service to those who need it. Moreover, assisting elderly persons who are in dire need of legal services appealed to me. It has long been committed to defending the rights of people with little voice in our system, and this position provided just such an opportunity.
also had to update the material especially by checking and changing whatever appropriate the changes to reflect the new Family Law Code.

I learned a great deal working at the Center. I got extensive training in interviewing a client. I saw firsthand the problems caused by not thoroughly interviewing a client. Further, I got to observe several cases to completion. At Maynard Toll we often prepared one of two small steps. We rarely completed a case from start to finish. We would make mistakes on a judgment or something. At Buhai I started some cases and finished others. I learned the family law process from start to finish. With a thorough understanding of the entire process I was better able to help clients at the beginning and during their cases.

I would recommend the Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law as an excellent place to work. The staff made you feel welcome and appreciated. I also learned a great deal. I made mistakes were brought to my attention in such a way as to let me learn from them. My suggestions and experiences were appreciated. I felt that for once I was able to give more value back to the community.

Welcome from page 1

note: It is perhaps one of the benefits of the early days that Frank Gehry had changed his name from Frank Goldstein to Frank Gehry. Report has it that after the Loya Law project, he contemplated changing his name again, along with some face-lifting plastic surgery. But this turned up as a prank. The Walt Disney Company was so impressed with the whimsy that Frank Gehry brought to his Loya Law project that it hired him to design the new Disney Music Center.

On the southeast corner of Merritt Hall is the gallery structure and the Loyola monument to aluminum siding. Parking lots do not get more high tech. Nor can I think of another parking structure that you could fry an egg on.

Merritt Hall is flanked on the south by the conference chapel and on the north by the Mortal Kombat video game in Cassassa Hall. (Mortal Kombat is an interactive teaching aide for most of the intellectual texts.) Inside Cassassa Hall is the Hall of the 80s. It pioneers the world of vertical lighting. It is made of aluminum as safety ratings. Next to the Hall of the 80s is the Hall of the 70s, which is translucent in that it is a normal lecture hall. Also next to the Hall of the 70s is the Hall of the 90s, a canvass-topped kiosk featuring Cafe Ole.

In the distance, you will hear the ever-present jingle of an ice cream truck. This is the only ice cream truck I know of that makes rounds. In the late evenings when no kids are around. What a clever marketing idea. I have seen anxious parents walk up to the truck. Not one of them walks away with ice cream. What could this truck of bliss be selling? Ice cream futures? Horn books? I will not answer these questions now. Instead, this is your research assignment. Using Yellow Pages, look up cases using the search terms ‘ice cream truck’ and ‘probable cause’. Let me know what you find.

world was desperately seeking alternative forms of energy. World Bank and Panama.

The government of Panama and the World Bank entered into an agreement to finance a hydroelectric projects flooding the Bayano, the largest river, the Bayano. The only obstacle to Panama’s development goals were the ten communities of the indigenous communities of the Panama. In 1971, the government entered into an agreement with the indigenous communities of the area to compensate their losses and relocate them onto comparable lands with legal title. The General Assembly created a special fund to cover these costs. However, there was never any formal relocation, the affected people sought higher grounds to survive the newly created Lake Bayano. The government made only a small payment of compensation. The special fund was determine to be exhausted and nobody knew what to do.

I would like to propose a hypothetical that will capture what trans-cultural litigation is all about. Suppose that after all the work by lawyers in Panama, Costa Rica and IACHR in September 1995 on behalf of the indigenous groups of Panama, having a report publish against them or having Panama resolve their problems with their indigenous people before the Commission meets in Panama to avoid bad publicity. The arguments for the petition were written by me this summer. I researched U.N. resolutions and sub-commission’s reports as well as American, Australian, New Zealand and other countries case law to establish customary international law that would resolve the property issue of the indigenous people. Furthermore, I researched the annual reports of the International Labor Organization (ILO) to see what type of violation had been filed against Panama for violating the ILO treaty on indigenous people. I also researched ten years of annual reports by the IACHR. Reading through annual reports is an interesting part of the job. I had to read about endless child rapes and killings by governmental death squads in Central America. The end result was a twenty page argument written in Spanish and capturing five human rights violations with an environmental twist.

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were allowed to attend the training, but we could only go to the training room and have to take an escort with us. The state hospital looked like the one in One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest. I thought it was J.D. Salinger that said that people should be allowed to commit suicide at cemeteries and be buried in hospitals. It’s hard to argue with that after simply walking the hall of a state hospital and talking to a patient.

At the end of the summer I worked on the pending county health cuts too. I asked the folks from individuals who use the services at the county hospitals. I also went to meetings where different public interest organizations planned and strategized to block the imposition of cuts. It was exciting to work on an issue which was dominant in the news.

When I first learned that PILF gives grants directly to Loyola students, I thought it was an expensive and indirect way of helping people. However, this summer I realized that it serves a dual purpose. First, it afforded me the opportunity to gain invaluable experience in disability rights law and learn about what career opportunities are available in public interest. Second, this summer provided me with an opportunity to directly assist individuals who may not otherwise be able to obtain legal advice. Although the work itself was rewarding, I was surprised at how many people thanked me. In return, I want to thank PILF and those who donated to PILF.

Appalachia

Bob Newhart, B.E.D., of all land was cheap. How cheap? For $38,000 you could buy 12.64 acres, tiltle.. . city water, fenced & stocked pond and a 704 square foot house. I rented a small apartment in the center of Somerset for about $230.00 a month including utilities.

The band at the West ‘80 played a rowdy version of “Like My Woman Just A Little On The Trashy Side.” All the sitting sardines repacked themselves on the flag- parquet dance floor. I found myself in the company of two young women, Jenine and Karen (we're shown all over the Courthouse and can't help to work...). We danced the two- step, the fox- trot and a waltz. Then I danced with their moms. Little children hopped and skipped in rhythm; none got left out. Outside, the fireflies glittered, and mist curled across the road in my car headlights. A herd of deer flew across the firefly- light after insects. The next day, we dropped anchor and swam in the lake. It was cool, clean and wonderful.

Pulasky county isn’t ethnically diverse like L.A. 95% of the people who live there (according to the U.S. Census) trace their ancestors to the people who preceded Daniel Boone through the Cumberland Gap. You can still find 200- year- old stone cabin founda- tions in the forest. But there were other groups, including a small, but significant African- American population.

Generally, the folks around Pulasky county like the place and the economy is limited to light manufacturing, farming and tourism. [The Pulasky County Bar Association has about 30 members.] Many people find it more eco- nomically feasible to leave than to stay.

But not all. One day, I met a brown- skinned man who turned out to have lived in Riverside, California, same as me. Hector had noticed my California license plates. I told him why I was there; what brought him to Kentucky? Work, he said, and he his three brothers and cousins, all from Michoacan. Mostly, they worked in tobacco and vegetables, though once they worked in a rodeo. Their crew cab truck with Arkansas plates had a brahma bull painted on the side, and silver silhouettes of naked women on the mudflaps.

Hector liked Kentucky. The weather wasn’t always nice, but he said, the people there were cool, he and his brothers and cousins better than Californians did. Cops didn’t hassle them. The local women found him intriguing, exotic, even a little dangerous. I guess I looked surprised; he just laughed. Hector’s round face and slightly receding hairline made him look more like a child than women like her. For caring so much about their chil- dren that they would jeopardize their own lives for the sake of their chil- dren. And this punishment reeks of hypocrisy, especially when that same society exalts motherhood above all else as everywoman’s true calling in life. Does her noble role outweigh her other means of financial support. She may be concerned about her chil- dren’s welfare. Her abuser may threaten her life if she tries to leave. Punishment of someone in such an extreme measure, even if domestic violence has erased the stereotypes I usedto hold. Essentially, the law punishes Ms. Pulasky county isn’t summer involved help- ing an incarcerated woman. Although domestic violence clear- ly exists, sometimes I wonder whether this focus obscures the real rea- son this crime exists. Domestic violence hap- pens because men physically abuse their partners.

To eliminate this crime, society must do more than simply provide resources to vic- tims. While resources for victims are badly needed, at some point our focus must be directed at the men who batter their partners. Already, batterer’s treat- ment programs exist and courts are ordering men convicted of domestic violence to attend these programs.

Society must take a zero- tolerance attitude towards violent men, regardless of whether a bat- terer was convicted of domestic violence or not. The courts, the police and prosecutors must emphasize that physical violence is a crime, even if it occurs within a marriage or intimate rela- tionships. Otherwise, desperate women will continue to kill and assault their abusers and risk going to prison. A zero- tolerance stand would also sig- nal that society values women’s lives and physical safety. Perhaps, if young girls knew their fathers had punished every time they hit their mothers, the message that women’s lives are worthwhile and valued would seep into the next generation of these young girls. Then, they could carry this message into adulthood and become the strong, liberated women they were meant to be.
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- Learn How to Write the Superior Answer

SAN DIEGO
Saturday, September 16, 1995: Noon-6:00 pm
Sunday, September 17, 1995: Noon-6:00 pm
All sessions will be given live at the California Western School of Law, 750 Cedar Street, San Diego, in the Auditorium.

LOS ANGELES
Saturday, October 14, 1995: 1:00 pm-7:00 pm
Sunday, October 15, 1995: 1:00 pm-7:00 pm
All sessions will be given live at the Ramada Hotel, 6333 Bristol Parkway, Culver City, Premium Room.

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Workshop Location/Date to be Attended: ____________________________
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