THE LAW MEANS A LATTE FOR THIS LAWYER AND COFFEE SHOP PROPRIETOR

By Bryan Gottlieb

Standing behind the counter of his coffee shop, Jeff Hughes asks a patron what she would like. Instead of steamed milk or a biscotti, the woman asks what recourse she has in fighting an eviction with her espresso. Instead of patron what she would like

Walking in, one orders a drink at the espresso bar, where baked goods, syrups, and beans line the walls. The specials are posted on a chalkboard above the register, and Hughes is usually behind the counter brewing up the java.

Hughes' business, which he strongly advocates as an option for those who can't afford the steep fees many lawyers charge for a consultation, currently has 35 lawyers participating in his referral network of specialists. Hughes does most of the initial consultations himself, charging patrons $20 for a 15-minute session. He says the coffee part of the business isn't the money-maker, as a Starbucks has recently located down the street. "The location is terrible for coffee but great for the legal referral service," he says.

The son of apparently non-litigious parents, Hughes described a childhood accident where he slipped in a store and his mom and dad refused to sue the establishment. "I cut my lip open due to the negligence of the store owner, but my parents never sued, which is kind of ironic now that I have a lawyer referral service," Hughes says. "My mom had a very negative attitude toward lawyers, and maybe that's one of the reasons I ended up pursuing law. She shared the perception that lawyers are bad people and they cause harm to our society, and maybe I wanted to prove her wrong."

After earning a bachelor's degree from UCLA, Hughes became a high school teacher, then worked for Wells Fargo Bank. A year out of college he applied to Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, where he found academics to be more of a challenge. "When I entered law school, it was very intimidating to me," Hughes recalls. "I was expecting "The Paper Chase", where the crotchety old professor would intimidate and humiliate the students. I did find some of that to be true, but, for the most part, I found my professors to be caring, kind individuals."

One of Hughes' professors, Bryan Hull, says his former charge was both a hard worker and determined to succeed. "Jeff was always an attentive student and someone who was always in class and interested in the subject matter. For Jeff, law school wasn't the easiest thing, but he always hung in there."

Passing the bar exam on his first try, Hughes decided to combine his talents, interests, and passions to establish something he believed would satisfy his need to change the world, rather than vie for a spot in a LEGAL GRIND.

Third Annual Public Interest Party at L.A.'s CLUB SOHO Is A Great Success!

By Brad Boulden

Third Annual Public Interest Party at Club Soho on February 10th was a great success! This year's event, sponsored by the ABA Law School Division and Loyola Law School, tripled last year's turnout and raised funds to assist public interest law endeavors. More than 300 students from seven law schools made the trek to downtown Los Angeles from as far away as Orange County to contribute to the party's success. There were 120 Loyola Law School students present, while USC, UCLA, Southwestern, Pepperdine, Whittier, and Western State contributed 80, 62, 26, 11,10, and 8 students respectively. The dramatic increase in numbers this year can be attributed to intense marketing by the Ninth Circuit ABA Law Student Division.

Ninth Circuit Governor Ali Jahangiri commented, "Loyola came through with big numbers. We owe a big thanks to SBA President Gil Serrano, ABA representatives Sherif El Dabe and Maggie Kharrarzi, Lieutenant Governor Zaai Aresh and our dedicated class representatives who make announcements and spread the word."

Moreover, the turn out of non-Loyola law students is the result of hard work from SBA and ABA representatives from all seven law schools, as well as a specialized group in charge of event promotion.

Formerly owned by The Artist Formerly Known As Prince, Club Soho has more
EDITORIAL

LOYOLA REPORTER STAFF

CLASS OF 2002 GPA CONTROVERSY

Although we find no specific duty on the part of Loyola Law School to treat all students within a graduating class equally, it can certainly be implied. Exams are anonymously graded to ensure that all students are on equal footing with regard to their performance. Mathematical calculations are done in order to objectively create the "curve" to assure that all students have a position measured in GPA, in relation to fellow students within their graduating class.

Thus it does not seem a terrific leap of faith to find that the Law School does have a duty to give all students within a particular graduating year grades based upon the same mean. As the Law School well knows, the GPA is an all important standard by which the outside world compares law students of a particular graduating class to each other, the very essence of the meaning of the bell curve.

Given this duty, we must then wonder why the Law School is considering evading this responsibility by passing it on to law firm recruiters, particularly those who interview during Fall OCI. By bumping the mean upward by two points to 81 for the day students graduating in 2002, while leaving the mean at 79 for evening students graduating in 2002, the School policy will give each day student a GPA two points higher than their counterpart in the evening program. The day and evening students of the year 2002 will be going through OCI together in the Fall, in direct competition with each other and will, if this policy is carried out, be subject to this inequality.

The Law School proposes that it will advise law firm interviewers of the GPA discrepancy in an explanatory letter affixed to the student’s transcript or resume. This, in effect, transfers the duty of equalizing the GPAs of students within the 2002 graduating class to law firm recruiters.

Have they specifically agreed to accept this duty? Who knows? It certainly isn’t their responsibility. And why should they? It is not up to them to recalculate student GPAs to provide equality for the student interviewees. The recruiter’s obligation and responsibility is to his/hers firm and the clients of the firm.

Their objective is to hire the best and the brightest students, not to follow a byzantine procedure of ferreting out evening student resumes from day student resumes, then to add two points to the evening GPAs to equalize them with those of day students, and finally to reconfigure their priority of resumes to reflect the adjustment.

Does anyone really think recruiters will feel any obligation to do this, considering the value of their time and energy? After all, they have their own firm workload as well as other schools’ OCI programs to attend to. The question still nagas as to why the Law School is considering foisting this obligation upon the recruiters, and consequently, washing their hands of any potential detriment this may cause the evening students in Fall OCI.

We do not like to think that the school considers the Evening Division the “stepchild” of the Law School, because we all know we are no such thing. However, in light of the knowledge that this new policy may harm the evening students, we begin to wonder why the situation does not concern the Law School and move it to action.

Certainly the Law School can find a way to treat all students within the class of 2002 equally with respect to the grade mean, without shifting the ones onto the third party law firm recruiters.

Sincerely,

Cori Ferraro,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Editor:

In response to a letter to the Editor in the February issue, I think we all agree with the writer that exams should not be re-administered, and that valuable lessons should be learned from this "debacle." However, referring to the educational process of law school as "buying" grades, which will later be bunched for coveted positions in the employment forum is a degradation of the concept of education. We pay tuition to be educated, and the extent to which we have benefited from that education is reflected in our grades. We do not "buy" grades any more than we will, in the future, "buy" a judge or jury.

The fact that the Civil Procedure midterm grades, due to an admittedly unfortunate series of events, will be a lesser percentage of the final grade, can hardly be classified as a withholding of something to which someone was entitled because they ostensibly "bought" it. Nor is it a wrong which necessitates the students being made "whole" by a refund of tuition.

Professor Idea has done what he feels is appropriate under the circumstances and has applied his policy equally to everyone. Now it is up to the students to deal with it, and succeed in spite of it. It is an imperfect situation to be sure, but so is just about everything in life.

Anyone who feels they have been wronged, and needs to be made "whole” has it within their power to accomplish that by themselves by doing well on the final. And don’t we always plan to do that anyway?

Sincerely,

Karen White, 2LE

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE ‘99-’00 LOYOLA REPORTER. IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT YOU.

I ALSO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL ASSISTANCE AND DEVOTION:

Mike Burke
Tina Calabro
Regis Guerin
Ali Jahangiri
Ann La Clair
Gil Serrano
Eloise Teklu

Sincerely,

Cori Ferraro
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

| "It is the duty of every citizen according to his best capacities to give validity to his convictions in political affairs."
| Albert Einstein (1946).

Voice YOUR opinion. Letters to the editor and articles are welcomed. Send to the Loyola Reporter mailbox at the Burns Info. Center or call (213) 736-5117.
SOHO: from page 1

recently been host to the Ricky Martin video, "Living La Vida Loca," and, Los Angeles Laker star Jack Moya and Francine Mata, carne in a close second floor viewing of the exciting and erotic dancing below. A Salsa contest added to the excitement of the evening. Southwestern’s SBA President, Jennifer Mirrati, and her partner (also a Southwestern student) captured first place and received a $50 cash award for shaking their bodies to Latin beats. The flamboyant faculty duo from Loyola Law School, Jack Moya and Francine Mata, came in a close second and claimed Edward’s movie tickets, as they enriched the party atmosphere and surprised many students and competitors.

Governor Jahangiri and UCLA SBA President Terrence Mann judged the contest. With the contest under way, Jahangiri and former governor Pehman Ardalan thanked all in attendance for their support of public interest law and their willingness to take time out of their busy schedules to come out and have a good time. Loyola’s Kenneth On, Director of Development, and Elizabeth Fry, Senior Development Officer, manned the door and collected the proceeds.

Following the dance contest, inhibitions decreased and students from the various law schools mingled amidst the crowd. Many in attendance commented that it was so nice to hang out with students from other law schools and how friendly everyone was.

The evening was more than just a public interest law fund raising event; it was a successful collaboration of seven law schools, allowing students an opportunity to make new friends, network, and escape from the law school grind.

Hughes tells the story of one Legal Grind lawyer who recently won a multi-billion-dollar judgment for some individuals injured in a car accident. "Lawyers participate in the Legal Grind service because they can both help many who wouldn't normally be able to explore options in the law and because, like the example I just told you, it can be very lucrative," Hughes says.

Combining your interests is one way to prevent burnout, Hughes says. "Burnout is so common in the legal profession and part of that is due to the fact that many enter it without analyzing what their interests are," he says. With a desire to teach people, an interest in business, and a law degree, Hughes felt a legal referral service, combined with the comfortable setting of a coffee shop, could be his ticket to success. "I knew I could run a lawyer referral service just because I am an honest person, and that's something that's very needed in the law," he says.

"Part of that mistrust has to do with misinformation," he continues. "The laws are so complex, and lawyers have to go to school for three years and then train for years more. It's a very complex system, and it's impossible for the layperson to have a good understanding of what the law actually means."

Because of the layperson's lack of practical knowledge, Hughes says providing people with options and informing them of the law empowers them and makes them more trusting. That's why he opened the Legal Grind. While there is no attorney-client relationship with a consultation, patrons are able to receive general legal advice.

Hughes' specialty is intellectual property law and estate planning. At this point he says he's concentrating more on expanding his business than practicing law, but he occasionally handles cases. He says he deals mostly, with the initial consultation and then refers those who want to obtain counsel to one of his participating lawyers. One of the things Hughes says he found most satisfying about law school was the competitiveness fostered by the grading system. Yet when he, or any of his lawyers, are fighting for a client, he says he's a pit bull. "I want [lawyers] who are ashamed when they lose, who want to win at all costs," he says.

Hughes recently began a program at the Boys and Girls Club of Los Angeles, where law students and at-risk youth will participate in moot court. This, Hughes says, provides law students an opportunity to help people, "because 'working on continuing to help the little guy' doesn't have to be a utopian dream. It can be profitable."

Hughes, says there is money to be made helping out the little guy because "working on continuing to help the little guy can be profitable." Because of the layperson's lack of practical knowledge, Hughes says providing people with options and informing them of the law empowers them and makes them more trusting. That's why he opened the Legal Grind. While there is no attorney-client relationship with a consultation, patrons are able to receive general legal advice. Hughes' specialty is intellectual property law and estate planning. At this point he says he's concentrating more on expanding his business than practicing law, but he occasionally handles cases. He says he deals mostly with the initial consultation and then refers those who want to obtain counsel to one of his participating lawyers.

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Hughes recently began a program at the Boys and Girls Club of Los Angeles, where law students and at-risk youth will participate in moot court. This, Hughes says, provides law students an opportunity to fulfill their public service requirements and introduces inner-city teens to the court system. "It has the ability to teach kids ways to resolve their disputes and see life through the eyes of their adversaries," Hughes says. "It also allows these kids to effectively formulate arguments and to persuade their opponents to see an alternative point of view."

Hughes' father, Richard, says he is not surprised his son has accomplished what he has. "Ever since he was a little kid he's been full of energy," the elder Hughes says. "Whatever he does he goes into 100 percent—it's just his philosophy. He wants to teach and make the law profession more acceptable to society and give lawyers a better image."

The Legal Grind can be accessed on the web at www.legalgrind.com.

Bryan Gottlieb is a freelance writer in Los Angeles. Reprinted with permission from Student Lawyer, December 1999 (Vol. 28 No. 4) Copyright 1999 American Bar Association.

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"A community is infinitely more brutalized by the habitual employment of punishment than . . . by the occasional occurrence of crime."

Wilde

"A community is infinitely more brutalized by the habitual employment of punishment than . . . by the occasional occurrence of crime."

Wilde
It's funny that although Middle Eastern students represent a large part of the Loyola Law School student body, there has, for some time now, been no club for these students to join together.

Consequently, this semester it is MELSA's goal to reestablish itself in mainstream campus life and become a representative voice on campus. The club was re-activated last October, and during the first two meetings we ate delicious Middle Eastern food and finally had the opportunity to meet fellow students interested in Middle Eastern culture and issues.

On February 24th, MELSA and the Armenian Students' Association co-hosted an event featuring speakers Judge Dickran Tevrizian of the U.S. District Court, and Judge Richard Kalustian of the Los Angeles Superior Court. The judges discussed the barriers they faced as Middle Easterners, in being appointed to the bench, and the low number of Middle Easterners present on the bench.

Judges Tevrizian and Kalustian also gave students recommendations regarding how to succeed as judges in today's competitive market. Moreover, they encouraged Loyola students interested in working for the judiciary to become involved in public interest organizations as a means of obtaining valuable experience. Their visit was highly informational and very much appreciated.

All students are invited to attend our monthly meetings. MELSA strives to accommodate both day and evening students when scheduling meetings. We encourage involvement and new ideas. Our office is located in FH 224 or we can be contacted at: (213) 736-8114.
From Law School to Legal Practice

The American Bar Association's Litigation Section held its first "From Law School to Legal Practice" presentation on Saturday, February 19th at the Southwestern University School of Law. One hundred students from various southern California law schools attended the four-hour event, which presented three litigation-related topics and offered a reception to follow.

H. Thomas Wells, Jr., Chair of the Litigation Section, provided the opening remarks. Mr. Wells stated that the section wishes to emphasize the importance of student membership and involvement.

The A.B.A. Litigation Section is the preeminent organization for trial lawyers in the United States, whether they practice plaintiff or defense in jury or non-jury, criminal or civil. There is room for every type of trial lawyer in the Section.

Mr. Wells encouraged students to become members and to take advantage of the benefits the Section offers, including quality publications such as the on-line publication "Tips from the Trenches."

Mark Clayton Choate of Choate, Guest & Springmeyer in San Diego presented the first topic of the day: "Sole and Small Firm Practice." Mr. Choate, a 1980 graduate of Seattle University School of Law and the senior partner of his firm, began his discussion by describing client expectations. Whether the client is General Motors or the grocer down the street, the client wants to be able to relate to their lawyer. Additionally, with the advances in technology and the Internet, clients today are more knowledgeable, organized, and informed about their situation. As a result, there is more cooperation between lawyers and clients.

According to Mr. Choate, the number one advantage of solo or small firm practice is that it allows an attorney to work for the client and to develop a personal relationship with the client. Mr. Choate suggests going into general practice at the beginning of one's legal career. He acknowledges, however, that today it is also very important to specialize. Therefore, he suggests pursuing areas such as women's issues or constitutional issues. Further, Mr. Choate highly recommends performing pro bono work for three reasons: 1) it helps keep lawyers sensitive; 2) it allows lawyers to give back to the community; and 3) it is a good source of future business.

Finally, Mr. Choate gave numerous tips for a successful practice. He described the economics of starting a small or solo firm practice through the use of billing. He explained that using a certificate of deposit as collateral for a loan is a way of establishing a good banking relationship. He also described how to use the Internet and technology to expand a small practice.

The second speaker was Martha K. Gooding of Howard, Rice, Nemmers, Casandy, Falk & Rakbin in Newport Beach. Ms. Gooding received her law degree in 1981 from the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law. Ms. Gooding addressed the topic: "How to Succeed as a Young Lawyer." Ms. Gooding offered eleven tips for success:

1) Take Ownership of Your Career. On a macro-level, this means shaping your legal career by doing things that interest you, such as working with likeable people, and by being proactive. On a micro-level, this means taking ownership of your cases. Do not wait for things to come; rather, take the initiative.

2) Always Put Your Best Foot Forward. In other words, never produce work unless it exemplifies your best effort. First impressions count. Therefore, never turn in less than your best work to a supervising attorney.

3) Speak Up. Never walk away with an assignment unless the deadlines, work product and expectations are clear to you.

4) Find a Mentor. A mentoring relationship should develop and grow. Therefore, find a mentor with whom you are compatible, and who is willing to take on new clients and develop a relationship with you. Find a mentor who will offer strategy tips, advice and ideas.

5) Squeeze the Opportunity. Never pass up an opportunity to learn. Challenge yourself with something new and stretch your abilities. The best way to learn something new is to do it.

6) Be Nice. Treat every person with respect and professionalism — this includes your colleagues, opposing counsel, clients and clients' staff.

7) Be On Time. Meet your deadlines! The court, a supervising attorney, or the client will be setting deadlines. If you have a problem meeting a deadline, bring it to the immediate attention of your supervising attorney. Do not procrastinate or the problem will worsen.

8) Mistakes and How to Survive Them. Good attorneys make mistakes. To survive a mistake, do the following:

a) acknowledge the mistake and take responsibility; b) figure out how to fix the mistake; and c) learn from your mistake.

9) Writing & Speaking. Writing and speaking comprise most of what attorneys do. Take a writing course if your writing needs improvement. Also, learn from the changes your supervising attorney makes to your motions.

10) Network. Keep in contact with classmates who can be sources of information and future clients. Get involved with a bar association. The earlier the better!

11) Enjoy Your Practice. Being a lawyer is fun. Take it seriously, but enjoy it.

The final topic of the day was "Life as a Litigator." Mark Neubauer, of Stern, Neubauer, Greenwald & Pauly in Santa Monica, served as moderator of the panel. The panel consisted of James William Bilderback, II of the California Department of Justice, Andrew Barlow Greene of Irei & Manella in Newport Beach, Bart H. Williams of Munger, Tolles & Olson in Los Angeles, and H. Thomas Wells, Jr. of Maynard, Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

The panel addressed issues such as starting salaries for first year associates due to "dot com" companies and the prevalence of technology in the legal field. The panelists spoke frankly about their likes and dislikes regarding the practice of law. Mr. Wells spoke about the difference between small firm and large firm practice. Mr. Bilderback described starting one's legal career in public service. Ms. Greene discussed the difference between a litigator (an attorney who conducts discovery but never goes to trial) and a trial attorney (an attorney who tries cases). Mr. Williams discussed his pro bono work with the NAACP as a great way to gain experience. As moderator, Mr. Neubauer kept the discussion fun, lively and interesting.

The Litigation Section's presentation demonstrated the importance of participation in a professional organization. Through such involvement, a law student can develop relationships with experienced attorneys who are always happy to help and give advice.

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS LAW SOCIETY presents

MUSIC ON THE INTERNET: MUSIC INDUSTRY ATTACKS MP3.COM

with speaker
Michael Rhodes, Esq.

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Donovan Hall
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These cases will shape the future of copyright law and fair use in the Internet and entertainment contexts and will affect music distribution in the 21st century.

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weekly consultation day unless it was raining. The following consultation day Justice John Marshall asked Justice Story to go to the window and give it as my opinion that there is not the slightest sign of rain. " Not content with the assessment of the situation that our jurisdiction is as broad as the Republic, and by the laws of nature it must be raining some place in our jurisdiction. Walter, bring on the rain."
**Movie Review:**

**Erin Brockovich**

By Regis Guerin

**Stars:** Julia Roberts, Albert Finney

Directed by Steven Soderbergh

Erin Brockovich (Julia Roberts) works as a legal assistant in a law firm when she discovers that Pacific Gas and Electric may be poisoning people in the town of Hinkley.

The single-mother of three then embarks on a lawsuit to try to save the people of Hinkley, while also trying to gain independence, confidence and self-respect.

The lawyers in the movie are supposedly based on two Loyola alums, but I'm not sure if they're the good lawyers, or the evil lawyers, or both.

This movie has many similarities to "A Civil Action," (starring John Travolta), except that "Erin Brockovich" is well-intentioned and entertaining, it may send a negative message regarding what women must do to be successful—they must either be bitchy, or show a lot of cleavage.

There are ways in which women can achieve success other than by being mean-spirited—for instance by being competent and confident.

Go see "Erin Brockovich" even if for no other reason than to fall in love with Julia Roberts once again.

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**LIVE MUSIC REVIEW**

**THE MURDER CITY DEVILS**

at the Troubador

By Regis Guerin

Whenever the Murder City Devils come to the city of angels, I usually try to go see them, because they always put on an entertaining show (even though they don't light their drums on fire anymore). Their sound can best be described as a mix of punk, garage rock and 50's style rock & roll.

An additional incentive to see the Devils is Leslie—the band's keyboard player—(She's a fox!).

However, I had the misfortune of meeting her before the show through a mutual friend. She made some lewd comments and had a real potty mouth, like Howard Stern but a lot shorter. She was obnoxious, to say the least, but I was determined not to let that ruin the show.

The Devils opened up with "I Want A Lot Now (So Come On)," a song off of their second full-length album on Sub Pop Records titled "Empty Bottles, Broken Hearts." The kids at the show pretty much went bananas as the band launched into favorites such as "Broken Glass," "Dancin' Shoes" and "Flashbulb," a song from their self-titled debut album on Die Young Records. In fact, at several points during the show the number of fans on stage outnumbered the band members. The Devils showed surprising energy throughout the set, considering that they have been on the road non-stop since last year.

The Murder City Devils always put on a great show, and I highly recommend checking them out if you are into garage rock, tattoos and obnoxious (but cute) keyboard players.

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**The Top 5 List:**

(...Because law students don’t have time for Top 10 lists)

5. The new Beck is pretty entertaining.
4. The Bigfoot Lounge.
3. The "Blended Decaf Soy Mocha" at the Coffee Table (2930 Rowena in Silverlake.)
2. Any movie with John Cusack ("High Fidelity" coming soon to a theater near you) or Angelina Jolie.
1. Belle and Sebastian's The Boy with the Arab Strap (a great record.)

**The Bottom 5 List:**

5. The new Oasis is rather disappointing.
4. UCLA's loss to Iowa State in the round of 16.
3. The Beauty Bar (the door guy was a real "Swayze.")
2. Resumes, cover letters, envelopes and stamps.
1. The phone-a-friend lifeline.

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**2ND ANNUAL LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT LAW SYMPOSIUM:**

ENTERTAINMENT AND THE INTERNET

Saturday April 29, 2000

Hosted by Professor Jay Dougherty.

This year's symposium will focus on legal and business issues in organizing and operating an Internet entertainment company.

The day-long program will feature speakers and panelists that are experts in their field.

Topics discussed will include: choosing the business entity and creating the equity structure; licensing and producing entertainment content for the Internet; intellectual property and domain name issues; developments in music licensing for the Net; labor and guild issues; and privacy concerns.

The symposium is part of Loyola's Continuing Legal Education program and will be attended by attorneys, both in the field, and interested in the field. This is a terrific opportunity for those interested in Internet and entertainment law to learn more about the field and meet attorneys practicing in the area.

The school will offer a discounted price for students who wish to attend, which will cover the cost of lunch and the written materials given to those in attendance.

Watch for flyers and announcements providing more details.

"To me, a lawyer is basically the person who knows the rules of the country. We're all playing dice, playing the game, moving our pieces around the board, but if there is a problem, the lawyer is the only person who has read the inside of the top of the box."

Jerry Seinfeld
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- **Performance Exam:** A detailed guide to get you through the “monster” Performance Exam, including actual practice exams.

MBE Online Course Features:

- **Simulate the MBE:** Take unlimited, unique, simulated exams to test your ability to constantly score high!

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