

September Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				SIPS Training 7-9pm Phys Ed E-120	1	2
4	Pre-Orientation Party	5	LSA Membership sales Sept 6-9	6	Classes begin	7
			SIPS Training 7-9pm Phys Ed E-120	LSA Membership sales Sept 6-9	8	LSA Membership sales Sept 6-9
				Deadline for Bursaries & Scholarships Application	9	10
11	SIPS Training 7-9pm Phys Ed E-120	12	Clubs Fair 12-2 p.m.	13	Alberta Law Review Information Session	14
				SIPS Training 7-9pm Phys Ed E-120	15	El Hacko Golf Tournament & FABS
18	Canons submissions deadline	19	Alberta Law Review Application deadline	20	Registration Deadline	21
					22	23
25	Fist Year Elections	26	2nd Issue of Canons comes out	27	Fist Year Elections	28
				Fist Year Elections	29	Fist Year Elections Last Day to Pay Fees
					30	

Horoscope

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finding that special someone is all well and good, making out with them at the First Friday Back is pretty brutal. The primary concern, however, is that law school is a lot like high school: news travels fast, and you're going to be in close quarters with the people around you for the next three years. The stars recommend a pact: to no longer be Virgos by the end of the senior prom!

Scorpio – The planets are well aligned for active social involvement this year: don't worry about what sort of workload you think you can handle; all the clubs here are run by law students; they know the ropes. It's the perfect chance to make friends, the life-blood of a great law school experience. And in subsequent years, you can always take over management of the school newspaper and use it as a vehicle for thinly veiled personal attacks on all the people

who've crossed you! You all know who you are.

Sagittarius – A limerick! If nothing else, it should encourage you to get out there and learn that first little bit of legal latin:

There once was a young law student named Rex,
who had very small organs of sex.
When charged with exposure,
he said with composure:
De minimis non curat lex.

Capricorn – The stars *totally* advise against keeping anything of importance in your lockers. The stars aren't freaking kidding about this one: people have lost laptops, jackets, purses and even their self-composure. Use them to store things you can afford to lose, or that aren't likely to be stolen. There's nothing quite like losing a laptop full of notes you never backed up three weeks before midterms or finals. Seriously: these people use lock cutters.

Aquarius – Come out to Law's a Beach in the third week of September. It's a

great day of softball, barbecue and partying that should make up at least a chapter in your scrapbook of good lawschool memories. If nothing else, you can listen to the second years complain that they already have too much reading to do!

Pisces – Have a fantastic year: everything is in place for a year of working hard and learning plenty. Remember to think like a lawyer! And from what the stars have gathered so far, that pretty much just means getting free lunches wherever you can find them and developing elite hangover management skills. Enjoy yourself!

Want to get involved with Canons?
Watch out for notices about our first meeting
Our Email:
canons@ualberta.ca

Canons of Construction

Volume 37, Number 1 The Law Students' Newspaper Sept 7, 2005



Photo by Vista Pourbahrami

Welcome to Law School!

Sajan Alexander (Alex) (3L)
President, LSA

Welcome back to all those that made it through last year alive and didn't decide to make a break for it this summer. And, a special congratulations and welcome to all of you that are joining us for the first time. This article is geared for you folks scratching your heads trying to figure out what the heck is going on, and trying to fight the urge to suddenly stand in any line that forms at the couches next to the library despite the fact that you don't know what it's for. This place can be a little confusing at first, but I'm told that things quickly start to make more sense as you go along. Although, frankly speaking, I was confused the first week I got here and that feeling has yet to leave me!

To give you a brief explanation of the Law Students' Association, the LSA is your Faculty Association that interacts on your behalf with the rest of the University, and in particular with the faculty and administration at the law school. There are 12 executive that sit on the

Board, ranging from Social and Sports all the way to Finance and External Relations. You'll quickly come to find that the LSA is a much more active Faculty Association than almost any other on campus. The LSA is responsible for coordinating quite a few different aspects of law school life, such as planning social events like our annual formal called the "Carbolic Smoke Ball", and sporting events like the infamous El Hacko golf tournament. The LSA is also responsible for things such as assigning lockers, maintaining the student lounge we call the Gavel, compiling study CANS for most of your classes, and for putting together yearbooks and the law student directory referred to as the "Who's Who". These are just a few of the things that the LSA does for you as a Law student. There is a small yearly fee of \$55, but it's definitely worth it for all of the services the LSA provides you. So, make sure that you at least get two things

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From the PUBLISHER



Matt Vernon (3L)



On behalf of the Canons of Construction, congratulations and welcome to law school! While the first few days are bound to feel a little hectic, they're more than likely going to be an absolute blast. This orientation issue of the Canons is meant to facilitate the latter: it includes welcome messages from some of the

Welcome to Law School!

...Continued from page 1

Property final by explaining the concept of perpetuities to you at 2am the morning of the exam.

Finally, if you have any questions at all, any of the member of the LSA would be happy to help answer them for you. And, if you can't find one of us, stop someone that's an upper year and ask them. You'd be surprised how friendly a place this faculty is and how willing people are to lend you a hand if you just ask. Contrary to what most "nice" people in the world will tell you, I'm a firm believer that there are stupid questions in this world. So, if you think that you're about to ask one of those

Canons... wants you!

student groups and volunteer organizations, a schedule of upcoming events and some other light reading. We hope it helps!

The Canons of Construction is the law school's student newspaper, published ten times a year and produced entirely by your fellow law students. We do our best to provide coverage of law school and campus events, editorials, comments from the faculty and general thoughts on the law school experience. We're also home to fiction, satire, advice columns and even poetry –

should the mood strike. We are always looking for columnists, writers, editors and layout artists, so if you're interested in helping out send us a message at any of the email addresses listed within, or come visit us during clubs

or you can't tell what category it fits into, take solace in the fact that I've more than likely already asked that same question and people have thus far been gracious enough to answer the question without ribbing me too badly about it.

Congratulations again on making it into law school! I look forward to getting to know you throughout the year, and hopefully that will start with a meeting at the First Friday Back Party. This is one of those events you really don't want to miss if you can help it. See you soon, and good luck with your first year!

week if you'd like to attend our annual general meeting. We also welcome unsolicited contributions at any time of the year, and letters to the editor will invariably get published, your opinions cast in stone for the betterment of all.

So welcome to law school: all of us at Canons look forward to seeing you around the school and to hearing from you! Best of luck in your first few weeks, we'll see you at the First Friday Back!

STIKEMAN ELLIOTT

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Canons of Construction

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Bowman's BANTER



Cam Bowman (3L)



Good Morning U of A! It's great to see all the familiar faces again, good to hear the beeps and whirs of the pinball machine and the frustrated shouts of those playing it. For those who are just joining us, you'll know what I'm talking about before about 9:30am on the first day.

This year, I'm going to be filling these pages with all sorts of sporting information,

HOROSCOPE



Aries – See what you can do about avoiding lineups this semester; they often don't lead anywhere you need to be. I'm thinking particularly about textbooks, student loan payments and whatever it is they serve at Edo's. Whatever happened to that rebellious independent streak? All this time and still following the crowd. For shame.



Taurus – Law School is going to be a lot like an old school martial arts flick: as the young and talented newcomer, only you have the power to make a difference; thuggish professors will bear down on you only one at a time, ready to fall to your elite legal skills; and unless you head to the north end of the city, most people aren't going to have a gun. And if Dean Percy is the sinister mastermind that kidnapped your entire village, Professor Renke is for sure his number one goon.



Gemini – Unless you're careful, you're doomed to take yourself far too seriously over the next three years. The

Sports in Law School

both within the law school and beyond. It will be home for notices about upcoming events, summaries on past ones, and every crack about the Edmonton Oilers that I can fit in. Which, incidentally, is quite a few. Keep your eyes tuned to this page and when you're out with your friends watching a game, you'll sound like the most knowledgeable person in the bar. And you'll get along great with Flames fans! Seriously though, in the interest of living through the year, I'll do my best to be objective and to fill up my word quota using as little effort as possible.

Speaking of giving notices for upcoming events, in a couple of weeks the always popular *Law's A Beach* softball tournament will be upon us once again. It's a fun filled Saturday where people come out for good food, a beverage or two in the sun and some softball (when they have some spare time in between the other two events). Talent is not a requirement, although I have heard that Professor Hopp is coming out again this year, so outfielders: be sure to move back.

In addition to *Law's A Beach*, there are lots of other ways to get involved in the sporting

life during your time at law school. There are numerous intramural opportunities, ranging all the way from basketball to team ultimate and everything in between. Keep a look out for postings outside of the Gavel to sign up for the teams of your choice. In addition to the intramurals, there is an active squash community led by Professor Sprysak (he can do more than just memorize the *Income Tax Act*, you know!) and great rugby teams for both guys and girls. The guys are looking to keep their newly established winning streak against the alumni intact, and the girls are looking to start one of their own.

I think that's about enough for now, I realize that everyone either

a) has already received too much information this week (in the case of first years) or

b) doesn't actually read anything until November (in the case of upper years). So, until November, I bid you farewell!

Wait... what? This paper comes out every two to three weeks? Uh... next issue: a pirated word search from the New York Times! Welcome to law school!

Ask the Stars: Your Horoscope for the Year

impenetrable clique with other members of a perceived law school aristocracy, or before you stop playing freecell during all your lectures: you *might* be learning through osmosis.



Libra – If it's the first week of classes and you find yourself being told to "panic without reserve" by the Career Services office, take it with a grain of salt. Just pay attention to the upcoming deadlines, and dust off your resume. Putting a working C.V. together can't be that hard: monkeys have gotten jobs with NASA, for crying out loud. And you're not dumber than a monkey... are you? Of course you aren't. It isn't like you're going to Queens.



Virgo – The stars have mixed opinions on dating within the law school. While

...Continued on page 8

General MALFEASANCE

Advice from the Plasma Screen



Matt Vernon (3L)



Plasma Screen:

"Welcome back, Students!"

"Career Services meeting this Tuesday! Topic: Resume Panic!"

"Law and Communism Club bag lunch, Thursday! Bring enough to share."

"Admissions Office, 4th Floor. Come on in!"

"Technology Budget Conference. Topic: another plasma screen?"



Since all of Canons' regular advice columnists are on vacation in tropical locales following their own advice as it pertains to pina coladas, we've turned to a resident advice guru who remains pretty attached to this place throughout the summer. Subsequent letters may be sent to the editors for perusal by next year's talented givers of all things advisory!

Dear Plasma Screen,

I am looking for impartial advice. My fiancé and I are getting married next month. My mother-in-law has always been pretty cool, not interfering, not creating any stress. Until now. She is organizing the rehearsal dinner and rather than a caterer, she decided to host a sushi party. I don't like the idea, and I'm deathly allergic to seafood. My fiancé and I gave her the list of the invitees eight weeks ago, but now she claims she has family in town, about six people, and she's invited them to the dinner. She knows my feelings – not to mention allergies – and is patently casting them aside. I told her to forget the dinner, I would just have it at the local Burger King. Now she says that she will not even be attending! My fiancé and I agree that this OUR wedding – I mean, she's been married for years – and we should be able to do this according to our whims and dietary restrictions. I don't want my mother in law to walk all over me, but I want family harmony. What should I do?

Dear Plasma Screen;

I'm new to the city. Other than writing for Canons, what other sure-fire ways are there by which I can make tons of friends, succeed in law school and be the envy of everyone I know?



Plasma Screen:

"Career Services Seminar: How to Edit your Request to Visit the Career Services Office."

"Welcome Back, Students!"

"Differential Tuition Meeting: Drinks at 12pm followed by grilled lobster dinner, garnished with money. Faculty only."



Canons of Construction

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Clubs INFO

Richard Johnson (3L)



As one of the few true professions, there are many burdens and many benefits that come along with being a part of the legal community. At no other time in the history of the profession has service for the public interest been as critical as it is today. While poverty skyrockets, the burden to perform *pro bono* legal service is increasing for those studying and practicing law. Indeed, opportunities to assist those who need legal services abound not only for lawyers but for students as well.

As the title of this piece suggests, *pro bono* involvement is a win-win situation for all those involved.

Individuals and organizations which receive *pro bono* assistance welcome the help that they could not have otherwise gotten. Lawyers in the practicing bar see their profession strengthened as students join firms with experience under their belts. Members

of the academic branch view the benefits of students' *pro bono* involvement as a means through which their teachings are reinforced in a practical sense. *Pro bono* activity provides a practical application of many topics covered in law school, spanning criminal, contracts, administrative, intellectual property and evidence law, to name but a few. The judiciary benefits through student assistance as individuals are afforded an advocate on matters that might otherwise have gone unrepresented. Lastly, the student involved in *pro bono* work gains extremely valuable skills in both litigation and solicitor's work, which may not have been possible without the availability of such involvement.

Pro bono participants are a last bastion for those in danger of losing their liberty or in need of an advocate, whether they be an organization or an individual.

Many members of the judiciary and the practicing bar strongly advocate *pro bono* work. In fact, some of the most active proponents of the *pro bono* ethic are all around us right

here in Edmonton. Alberta Queen's Bench Chief Justice Allan Wachowich donates his

time every year to speak to the law students at U of A about the importance of *pro bono* involvement. Particularly, Chief Justice Wachowich feels that students should get involved from the day they enter law school right through their professional career. Alberta Provincial Court Judges LeFever and Creagh

spent time speaking with students last January about court procedure and advocacy, and the need for students assisting in criminal matters through Student Legal Services. These are just two examples out of many that illustrate the support and participation of judges in fostering students' *pro bono* involvement.

Faculty members such as Professors Hopp and Stribopulos have spent an immense amount of time advising and helping U of A law students hone their skills and gain the best experience possible, further permitting Student Legal Services to continue to provide critical



services to the Edmonton community.

Many avenues are available for students to participate in *pro bono* legal work. Student Legal Services has four divisions, each of which provide a unique experience and area of focus. For those who may enjoy working with landlord/tenant and contractual issues, or

participating in divorce clinics and dispensing information on family law, the Civil/Family Division is for you. If you want to participate in research on organizational or corporate non-

Pro Bono involvement in law: A win-win situation

profit issues, including the formation of societies, minority rights and liability issues, Pro Bono Students Canada is perfect for you. For those who enjoy criminal law, the Criminal Division offers experience in dealing with a range of criminal matters at the provincial court level. If assisting the homeless and minority populations at various outreaches and lectures is more your interest, then you will find the Legal Education and Reform Project very rewarding.

There are so many opportunities available for those who want to both help those in need of legal assistance as well as gain invaluable practical experience dealing with real issues in a supportive and practical setting. Please take up the task and join us in keeping the *pro bono* ethic alive!

Please contact those below for further information on one or more of the various projects:

Civil/Family Law Project:

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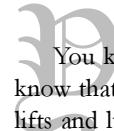
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Please check out our website at:
www.slsedmonton.com.

Law School TIPS/FYI

Shayne Saskiw (3L)



You know, only law students are going to know that this article might not be about stair lifts and lunges.

For all the newcomers, CAN stands for "Condensed Annotated Notes". Ideally, it is a succinct breakdown of the legal principles within a particular course, compiled into a convenient study guide. Really, the plan is to summarise the cases in your casebook and textbook, along with your class notes and anything else the professor assigns, into one comprehensive document that overviews whatever class you happen to be CANning. So when you're doing your class readings beforehand, make notes. When the professor goes over the case in class, take notes. If the textbook has anything to add, make notes. Then meld them all together, trim it down as best you can, and voila: you have a CAN.

The process of creating a CAN is far more important than the end product: the CAN itself. For instance, while most of the tests you'll write this year are open book exams, you will not have enough time to actually read or search through your CAN during a test. Certainly, there will be no time to "learn" from your CAN during an exam as you should know everything in it by heart. It really should simply

So You Want a Tight CAN?

provide "triggers" for your brain to retrieve the wealth of stored information you diligently accumulated during the entirety of the school year.

The LSA provides a series of good CANs for all the first year classes. While they've all been assembled by top students from previous years, they aren't vetted for accuracy, can contain errors, and might not necessarily reflect the professor's viewpoint. The law and a professor's focus will change each year and that evolution might not be reflected in an older CAN. Furthermore, you need to go through the learning process on your own, even if it hurts your brain. A pre-made CAN, even if entirely accurate, can never substitute the process of studying, taking notes, and compiling your own study guide. A great use for a commercial CAN, however, is as a mirror for your own work. You can verify what you've come up with and add anything you might have missed.

Here are some preliminary tips for creating your very own tight CAN:

- Start comprehensively and then hone in on the key legal principles as you develop your CAN. Knowing what to eliminate, or at least knowing what you don't need in your study guide, is half the battle.
- Organization is the key. Group cases

that stand for a particular proposition if that works for you, or list out the principles each case represents. At any rate, make sure that you're using a system that is convenient, makes sense to you, and reduces confusion.

- Only keep material facts in your case briefs (you'll learn to differentiate before long; don't worry!). Quite often it's the law that's going to be important, not the minutiae of the factual scenario.

• If you have time and are keen, hand-write your CANs a couple weeks before your exam. Not only will this naturally condense your CAN, but it will help you utilise another one of your senses, thereby increasing your retention.

- Don't CAN just for the sake of CANning. Thinking about what you've learnt is much more important. If the process becomes a matter of mindless transcribing, try something else or try studying in a group. Just keep your mind moving!

• Avoid listening to rumours. There is no secret CAN that is passed along from year to year that will solve all your problems and allow you to ace your exams. While there might be a CAN out there that covers everything on the exam, you still have to know everything in it, and there isn't a better way to do that than by writing the perfect CAN yourself.

- Each and every CAN will invariably differ for each course so adopt whatever format helps with a given professor, textbook, or casebook.

- Start now! And don't stop until the end of classes. The more work you let pile up now, the less likely you're going to want to tackle it later when exams set in and your life becomes redefined as pure pain.

I hope this helps. Keep in mind, though, that it's all just taken from the personal experiences of one student: there's no *right way* to get through law school, just a lot of different wrong ways. Pick the way that works for you!

LSA UPDATE



Jennifer Young (3L) & Laura Gill (2L)

On behalf of the Law Students' Association (LSA), we would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new 1Ls to Law School and to welcome back all the 2Ls and 3Ls. This year promises to be jam packed with tons of awesome events. Our goal this year is to keep past events the same with a new touch and to introduce more new events.

The LSA will be starting the year off with our annual First Friday Back Party, which will be held on September 9th at an off-campus location. Buses will leave the Law Centre at 7:30 p.m. and will return at 1:00 a.m. This is just one of many great events put on throughout the year by the LSA. All students are encouraged to come out and party with their fellow classmates before classes get into full swing.

The next event planned for September is the El Hacko golf tournament and Friday Afternoon Beer Social (FABS), which will be held on September 16th. Check out the LSA board for more information in regards to these events and other events that will be held throughout the year.

Some more events to keep an eye out for throughout the year are the faculty mixer with the med/pharmacy students, curling bonspiel, winter carnival, Carabolic Smoke Ball, and many more. If you have any questions in regards to any events planned, or any other LSA service, feel free to contact any executive of the LSA.

Hope to see everyone at all the events. It is going to be a fun year!

LSA Tentative Law School Events Schedule 2005/6

September

- Pre-orientation Party, Sept. 5th
- Orientation for 1Ls, Sept. 6th
- LSA Membership Benefit Package Sales, Sept. 6th-9th
- Classes begin for all students, Sept 7th
- First Friday Back Party, Sept. 9th
- Student Group and Club Fair
- Student Legal Services (SLS) Wine and Cheese
- El Hacko Golf Tournament, and Friday Afternoon Beer Social (FABS), Sept. 16th
- 1st Year Elections, Sept. 26th-30th
- Condensed Annotated Notes (CANS) on sale and delivery
- Law's a Beach Sports Event and Party, Sept. 24th

January

- Classes start, Jan. 9th
- CANS 2nd term sales and delivery
- Icebreaker Sports Social/Winter Carnival
- FABS
- Law Show
- Law Ski Trip
- Law Formal (Carabolic Smoke Ball) tickets on sale

February

- 2L Career Day, Feb. 3rd
- Carabolic Smoke Ball, Feb. 16th
- Sports FABS
- Reading Week, Feb. 20th-24th

March

- Grad 2006
- LSA Elections, Mar. 13th-16th
- Jeopardy Tournament, Mar. 27th-29th
- LSA Annual General Meeting, Mar. 30th
- FABS
- Tevie Miller Teaching Award

April

- Last day of classes, Apr. 12th
- Last Day of Class Bash
- Exams
- End of Exams Party, Apr. 29th

Note: These dates and events are subject to change. Many other smaller group events and speakers throughout the year. Exact dates of upcoming events are posted outside the Gavel on a monthly calendar, and advertised on the Electronic Bulletin Board.

Law Students' Association is a proud supporter of the Canons of Construction

President: Sajan Alexander (Alex) (3L)

VP General: Joanna Cox (2L)

VP External: Tyler Derksen (3L)

VP Services: John Rauzer (2L) & Roman Kotovych (3L)

VP Social : Laura Gill (2L) & Jennifer Young (3L)

VP Sports: Christina Cundict (2L)

VP Academic: Jon Wescott (2L)

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