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# *The University of Akron School of Law Administrative Briefs*

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January 15, 2002

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University of Akron School of Law  
150 University Avenue  
Akron, OH 44325-2901  
(330) 972-7331

### Message from the Dean

Welcome back to campus! I trust that you all had a good holiday season and hopefully the opportunity to gain renewal from spending time with family and friends. As we begin the new semester, I would like to write you about two different items.

First, I want to thank all those who filled out the student course/professor evaluation forms. As you know, we evaluate every course every semester. This is part of a commitment to continuous quality improvement.

Your responses are of critical importance to the faculty members themselves. Over the years, I have heard many faculty explain the adjustments they have made in their approach based upon comments received from the students.

Further, Associate Dean Reilly is charged with the responsibility of reading each and every student evaluation completed. Information gleaned from student evaluations can be useful in talking with faculty about ways in which to improve their teaching. Student evaluations are also a factor considered in determining whether to rehire adjunct professors for a following year, and student evaluations are one factor considered in determining whether a faculty member should be retained, awarded tenure, or promoted.

You should realize the task of completing evaluation forms is a serious one and that though confidentiality and privacy reasons may prevent you from knowing what effects they have, they do have an effect. My only caution is this: while we are interested in what students' opinions are, we are far more interest in why the students hold those opinions. Using the narrative to explain the reasons for a student's conclusion or giving examples for that conclusion, is going to be far more persuasive than simply reporting a conclusion.

The second matter that I want to address in this letter may relate to all students but has some particular importance to first-year students. The first-year class is typically made up of students who did very well in college, who are self-selected (perhaps by temperament and aptitude) to pursue a law degree and who are overwhelmingly in the top 50% of all LSAT takers. Because of the high credentials of every student, the competition for grades is exceedingly strong. I want you to know, however, that your Fall Semester grades are not inevitably a good predictor of your Spring Semester or later grades. Almost every student who applies him/herself improves their grades as they go through Law School. Further, every year there are students who improve their grades from the Fall to the Spring Semester.

If you are happy with your Fall Semester grades, then you need to continue to work hard to maintain those grades. If you would like to do better,

you should realize that people in last year's class (and every class before then) have found ways to make adjustments in order to do even better in the Spring Semester. It is much like a football team making adjustments on their defense or offense at halftime. You should neither be overly confident nor discouraged by the first semester grades.

To reiterate what I shared with you at orientation, studies tell us a number of things about students who do well in Law School. These include:

- (1) They typically spend at least 50-55 hours as full-time day student on their class work. For evening students, there would be equivalent of 32-41 hours of law school work every week.
- (2) People who study more tend to get better grades.
- (3) People who attend class regularly tend to get better grades.
- (4) People who engage in active learning techniques (participating in class, making their own outlines, taking practice exams, etc.) do much better than those people who engage in passive learning experiences (using other people's notes and outlines, reading practice exams without actually writing the answers, etc.)
- (5) People who have a tolerance for ambiguity tend to do better.

We want every student to be successful, not only in Law School and on the bar, but especially in serving clients as a lawyer. Each course is preparation for that ultimate goal.

Best wishes for a good semester.

Dean Aynes

## General News

### ATTENTION: First Year Student

Please come in to the Law Receptionist's Desk to pick up your Student Handbook **no later than Friday, January 18, 2002.**

Additionally, if you have any papers from the Writing Program, i.e. Memo III, Lexis, and/or Westlaw we ask that you also pick up these materials.

### Important Registration Information

The last day to withdraw for the Spring 2002 semester without "WD" appearing on a student's academic record is Monday, January 28, 2002.

### Late Registration/Schedule Change Dates:

Late Registration ADDS without signatures – Monday January 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday, January 18, 2002.

Late Registration ADDS with instructor, advisor, and dean's signature – Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Monday, January 28, 2002.

Late Registration DROPS without signatures – Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday, January 28, 2002.

If you need to add or drop a class, you may do so via the Web ([www.uakron.edu/registrar](http://www.uakron.edu/registrar)), Touch-tone Telephone (330-972-8083), or in person at the University Registrar's Office or at the Law Dean's Office according to the above schedule. You may only add/drop in person at the Law Dean's Office between 8a.m.-5p.m., **Tuesday, January 22 through Monday, January 28, 2002.** Please complete the Authorization for Schedule Change/Late Registration form(may be picked up from the Law Receptionist's desk) and obtain the

appropriate instructor's signature. If the Associate Dean approves it, the Law Dean's Office will add the class for you.

**REMEMBER: All students must be on the official grade roster by Monday, January 28, 2002. You may NOT attend a class without being on the official grade roster for that class!!**

### Viewing Grades Via the Web

The School of law Fall 2001 grades were released for viewing via the Web on Monday, January 7, 2002.

To view your grades, you must have a UANET ID. To set up a UANET ID, please call the Help Desk at 330-972-6888 to request an ID.

Then proceed to the [www.uakron.edu/registrar](http://www.uakron.edu/registrar) website and click on the Online Info Center button. This will take you to our personal record. Please click the View Fall 2001 grades button to view your grades.

### Final Bar Applications

If you are planning on taking the Bar Examination in July 2002 and need a Final Bar Application, please email Jill Painter at [jill6@uakron.edu](mailto:jill6@uakron.edu) or leave a note with your request (remember to include your name and mailbox #) at the Law Receptionist's Desk. The Supreme Court of Ohio Admissions Office is in the process of sending more applications. As soon as they are received, and if you have requested a packet, it will be placed in your mailbox.

### Mailbox Maintenance

Please check your mailbox regularly to prevent overstuffing.

### Early Out Requests

Within the next couple of weeks Early Out Requests will be sent to those students who have expressed an interest in completing their degree a semester early. You must read, understand, and

complete all forms and turn in a copy to Jill Painter, Student Services Counselor. If a meeting is desired, you will be contacted via email or your Law mailbox.

**Law Student Services Counselor Contact Information**

Jill Painter, Law Student Services Counselor, may be contacted via email at [jill6@uakron.edu](mailto:jill6@uakron.edu) or in writing by leaving a note at the Law Receptionist's Desk. If a meeting is required, you will be contacted to set up an appointment.

**ATTENTION: Degree Candidates Spring 2002**

Degree Clearance Forms are in the process of being completed. As soon as the forms are completed, a note will go to your mailbox & the Law List that they are ready to be picked up from the Law Receptionist's Desk. If there are any questions, please contact Jill Painter at [jill6@uakron.edu](mailto:jill6@uakron.edu) or by leaving a detailed note at the Law Receptionist's Desk. You will be contacted for an appointment if necessary!

**Attention Graduates:**

Just a reminder to get your graduation robe ordered with the Polsky's Bookstore if you plan to march at the Law Commencement, Sunday, May 19. The deadline of March 8 will come upon you very quickly!

**Disability Notice**

Reminder to all newly admitted students: If you will be requesting a special accommodation due to a disability please provide a disability determination letter to Mrs. Rosemary Cannon, Assistant to the Dean, as soon as possible.

Any returning students needing special accommodations because of a temporary disability must contact Mrs. Cannon, providing medical documentation, at 972-7331.

**Postings/Announcements**

\* Please make sure your postings are posted only on correct category bulletin boards.

\* Physical Facilities has brought to the attention of the Dean's Office the granite/marble columns are NOT to be used for postings. The removal of tape has required the use of tools that damage the surface.

\* Postings are never to be displayed on any painted walls.

\* Classified/General announcements are to be on appropriate bulletin boards only and are to be removed by the poster when items are sold or event is done.

\* Descriptive Category signs are at each bulletin board.

\* Please remember to remove your postings after event is accomplished.

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort. We are all proud of our building and hope to maintain an impressive appearance for the many VIP guests we have come to visit us.

**Student Organizations**

**Calendar:** Please remember to provide the dates of your events and meetings for the Law School calendar c/o Rosemary Cannon, Assistant to the Dean.

**Events/Projects:** Please remember to use the "Event Approval Form" for any events other than general meetings, and to use the "Project Approval Form" for special projects. The purpose of these approval forms is to avoid calendar conflicts and duplication of events/projects. Submit to Rosemary Cannon.

**Reservations:** Please remember to schedule room and table reservations with the Receptionist.

**Use of Rooms and Tables**

Please remember to reserve rooms with the Law School Receptionist. Also, to use tables in the hallway near 151, please reserve space with the Receptionist. **The tables in the Student Lounge are designated for food sales and also must be reserved with the Receptionist.**

**Faculty, Staff and Student Directory**

There is a minimal supply of the Directory available for law students. If you would like one, you may pick it up at the Dean's Office Reception area while supplies last. If our supply is depleted and you still would like one, you may seek to obtain one at the Polsky's Building or at Gardner Student Center.

**Admissions Thanks You**

The Office of Admissions would like to extend a public thank you to the following students for assisting with the 2002 New Year's Open House, which was held on January 5, 2002.

*Gene Barrett, Kara Bingham, Latonya Dixon, Erika Klie, John Scavelli, Paul Stephenson, Barbara Vimont, and Amy Wells.*

Without the assistance of the law students, the events that the Office of Admissions holds here for prospective and admitted students simply could not run as smoothly as they do. Thank you once again for your assistance.

**Munich University Summer Training in German and European Law (MUST)**

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers North American law students the opportunity to participate in a unique international summer program at the Munich University Law School, one of the leading law schools in Germany. The course provides an in-depth introduction

to European and German Law. The curriculum comprises not only intensive training in general subjects like private and constitutional law, and the law of the European Union, but also provides an introduction to corporate, securities, and antitrust law. Considerable time will be devoted to case studies in small groups to convey a sense of the particularities of German and continental European law (e.g. the greater relevance of statutory law).

The size of the program will be strictly limited and students will be carefully selected from an international pool of applicants to guarantee excellent study conditions. LMU law professors who are leading scholars in their respective fields and have extensive teaching experience will teach most classes. Classes and exams will be held in English, but German language courses at various levels of proficiency are offered alongside on an optional basis.

Extracurricular activities include a number of excursions and guided tours. A full-time tutor will be available for all issues regarding cultural and social events.

**Eligibility Requirements**

The Program is open to graduate students enrolled full time in a law program at an accredited university in the US or Canada. Applicants should have completed at least one year of Law School at time of application.

Applicants must be US or Canadian citizens or hold permanent resident status in one of these countries.

**Terms of Award**

A limited number of DAAD scholarships are available. They cover tuition (approximately \$556), including some excursions, and single dormitory accommodations (approximately \$231).

A small international travel subsidy (approximately \$178) will also be paid.

Scholarship funds are transferred directly to the Ludwig Maximilians Universitat Munchen (LMU).

Please note that the scholarship does not include any insurance coverage. Participants should make arrangements for adequate health and accident insurance for their stay abroad.

**Application Guidelines**

All parts of the application must be typewritten or, if computer-generated, near-letter-quality and submitted in **TRIPPLICATE** (one original, two photocopies), except for recommendation letters and transcripts, which require one original only (in sealed envelopes or sent separately). A complete application consists of the following parts:

- \* DAAD application form entitled "Munich University Summer Training in German and European Law (MUST)". Please answer all questions on the form, even if you refer to additional material, and sign the form.
- \* A recent passport photo should be attached to each of the application forms.
- \* Curriculum vitae.
- \* A detailed statement explaining why participation in this program is important for the applicant's professional or research goals.
- \* Official copies of all post-secondary transcripts, including law school class standing.
- \* Two letters of recommendation on law school letterhead from your law professors. The letters of recommendation must have been written within the past twelve months.

**Application Deadline**

The deadline is March 15, 2002. Complete application must be sent to:

DAAD, 871 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017. Applications postmarked March 15<sup>th</sup> or earlier will be accepted; those with later postmarks cannot be processed. The evaluation of applicants will be based on their academic qualifications, statement of purpose, and referee assessment. Applicants will be notified about the outcome of the competition by the beginning of May.

For more information please see the Career Planning and Placement Office.

**Career Planning News**

The following is a list of upcoming events and opportunities. Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Career Planning and Placement Office at 330-972-5321.

**Upcoming Programs**

**Mentor Program**

The Attorney/Student Mentor Program pairs first-year students with local volunteer attorneys in order to gain greater exposure to the practicing bar. Students are paired with attorneys based on their interest and geographic preferences. Akron Attorney Larry Tucker will visit first-year classes on January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to introduce the Program to first-year students. Sign-up forms will be placed in first-year student mailboxes. The Mentor Program will begin with a reception on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Please consider participating in this program.

**Mock Interview Program**

This annual event provides students the opportunity to interview in a legal setting with local attorneys. It provides a great practical experience. The Mock Interview Program begins on March 18<sup>th</sup> and lasts throughout that week.

Sharpen your interview skills by participating in this program.

Brown Bag Seminar Series

February 18: Heather Lyke will present on Sports Compliance.  
February 20: Dr. Robert Sturkey and Attorneys Jack Morrison and Virginia Robinson will present on Diversity in the Profession.  
February 27: Kimm Walton, J.D., will present on Guerrilla Tactics for Getting the Legal Job of Your Dreams.  
March 20: Lisa Abrams will present on Legal Specialties.

2002 Government Information Fair

Invitations have been mailed and work is underway for the 2002 Government Information Fair which will take place on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Please note that the IRS has already committed to attend.

Writing Competition

Andrew P. Vance Memorial Writing Competition

The Customers and International Trade Bar Association and Brooklyn Law School are sponsoring this writing competition to encourage law students who are interested in careers in customs and international trade law. The topic is an in-depth analysis of a current issue relevant to customs and international trade law.

Cash Prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: \$750.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$250.00

Deadline – May 1, 2002

Attorney-Certified Public Accounts Essay Contest

The topic is *Compare and contrast the similarities and differences between RETAINED EARNINGS computed under GAAP and EARNINGS AND PROFITS (E&P) computed for Federal Income tax purposes.*

Cash Prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: \$2,500.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$1,000.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>: \$500.00

Deadline – May 11, 2002

Food and Drug Law Institute Writing Competition

The Food and Drug Law Institute sponsors the Writing Competition to encourage law students interested in the areas of law that affect foods, drugs, devices, cosmetics, and biologics. Papers should provide an in-depth analysis of a current issue relevant to the food and drug field (e.g. a review of relevant case law, legislative history, and other legal authorities involving the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Institutes of Health, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, or the Environmental Protection Agency). Last year’s winning papers were on the following topics: substantial equivalence and FDA’s premarket review of medical devices; patent term extension, patent infringement exemptions, and preemption jurisprudence as applied to medical devices, the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act; and the use of indigenous medicine in developing western pharmaceuticals.

Cash Prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: \$1,500.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$1,000.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$500.00

Deadline – May 17, 2002

Alexander Hamilton Student Writing Competition

The prize will be awarded for the best article, essay, or law review note critically examining the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in *United States v. Emerson*, No. 99-10331, 2001 U.S. App. LEXIS 22386 (October 16, 2001), in light of judicial precedent and historical and legal scholarship on the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Cash Prize: \$3,000.00

Deadline – June 3, 2002

American Judges Assoc./American Judges Foundation Law Student Essay Competition

Papers will be evaluated considering: writing quality and clarity; the interest

of the topic and content to a broad segment of the judiciary; analysis and reasoning; timeliness, originality and creativity; quality and use of research; and compliance with these rules.

Cash Prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: \$3,000.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$1,250.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$1,000.00

Deadline – June 30, 2002

National Association of Counsel for Children Law Student Essay Competition

Essays will be evaluated on the importance of the topic to advancing the legal interests of children, persuasiveness and the quality of research and writing.

Cash Prize:

\$100.00 and

Scholarship to 2002 National Children’s Law Conf. In Orlando, FL.

Deadline – July 15, 2002

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Essay Contest on Ayn Rand’s Novel Atlas Shrugged

Select one of the following three topics:

1. *Atlas Shrugged* depicts a society of diminishing economic freedom. What is the philosophical motivation behind these controls and what is the practical result? What is hero John Galt’s answer, both practically and philosophically? Use the events in the novel to support your answer.

2. Pick any two of the following quotes from *Atlas Shrugged* and explain their significance in relation to each other as well as their wider significance in the story.

- (a) Rearden (to Dagny): “We’re a couple of blackguards, aren’t we?” Dagny: “Why?” Rearden: “We haven’t any spiritual goals or qualities. All we’re after is material things. That’s all we care for.”

- (b) Dagny (to Galt): “We never had to take any of it seriously, did we?  
Galt: “No, we never had to.”
- (c) Francisco: “The words ‘to make money’ hold the essence of human Morality.”
- (d) Galt: “[T]he noblest act you have ever performed is the act of your mind in the process of grasping that two and two make four.”

3. What does the title’s character “Atlas” represent? Is this a positive or a negative representation and why?

Cash Prizes:  
1<sup>st</sup>: \$5,000.00  
2<sup>nd</sup>: (3) \$1,000.00  
3<sup>rd</sup>: (5) \$400.00  
Deadline – September 16, 2002

**Summer Programs Abroad**

We receive information on numerous study abroad programs as well as various LLM programs. Below is a sampling of recent programs received:

- Dickinson: *Florence, Italy*
- Florida State: *Oxford*
- Loyola University: *Vienna, Austria; Moscow, Russia; Budapest, Hungary; Austria/Hungary; Mexico; Costa Rica.*
- Saint Louis University: *Madrid, Spain*
- Syracuse University: *London, England*
- Univ. of ILL at Urbana: *Oxford, England*
- Univ. of Mississippi: *Cambridge*
- Widener University: *Sydney, Australia; Venice, Italy; Geneva, Switzerland; Nairobi, Kenya*

**Suggestions Wanted**

If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve our services, please let us know. We welcome your thoughts and opinions!

## Student Organization News

### Federalist Society

The Akron Law School Chapter of the Federalist Society invites you to join us in welcoming Prof. Charles Dunn on Thursday, January 17, 2002 at 5:15p.m. in Room 152. Prof. Dunn will be presenting a talk entitled “The Seven Laws of Presidential Leadership”.

Prof. Dunn is the dean of Arts and Letters at Grove City College where he is a professor of Political Science. Prior to teaching at Grove City College, Prof. Dunn taught at Clemson University and the University of Illinois – Urbana. Prof. Dunn has served as Chairman of the United States J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, served in various support capacities in the United States Congress, and was Counsel to the Legislative Committee for the Illinois Constitutional Convention. In addition, Prof. Dunn has testified before the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees. Prof. Dunn is also the author of several books including “The Scarlet Thread of Scandal: Morality and the Presidency”, “American Government in Comparative Perspective”, and “The Conservative Tradition in America” as well as being published in several academic journals. Prof. Dunn has also appeared on ABC’s *World News Tonight*, NBC’s *Today Show* and *Tonight Show*, and National Public Radio’s *All Things Considered*.

Pizza and soda will be provided starting at 5:10p.m. so that Prof. Dunn can begin promptly at 5:15p.m. The presentation will be over in time for students to attend their evening classes (approximately 6:00 p.m.).

If you have any questions please contact Todd Snitchler at [tsnitch@uakron.edu](mailto:tsnitch@uakron.edu) or 330-699-6628. We hope to see you there!

### L. A. W.

#### L.A.W. Meeting Announcement

Attention members of L.A.W.: L.A.W. will be holding its first meetings of the semester on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:15 p.m. and January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:45 p.m. Both meetings will be held in Room 151. all members are encouraged to attend the meeting of his/her choice. Topics on our agenda include:

- Battered Women Shelter Drive
- Spring Symposium
- Domestic Violence Coalition Breakfast
- And much, much more!!

#### L.A.W. Thanks the Law School

L.A.W.’s members and officers would like to extend a hearty “thank you” to all of the Law School students, faculty and staff who participated in this year’s Angel Tree toy drive. With your help, we were able to meet our goal of providing over 175 children with gifts this holiday! The Salvation Army workers who accepted our donation expressed amazement at our school’s generosity. Thank you so much for, once again, helping us make children’s holiday wishes come true!

#### Summit County Domestic Violence Coalition Position Statement Release

The Summit County Domestic Violence Coalition (SCDVC) was formed in 1996 to coordinate the efforts of the many agencies that are responsible for enforcing the laws against family violence, serving the needs of the victims of the violence and addressing the punishment and treatment of the offenders. The SCDVC will host a Breakfast meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2002 to release a position statement about

domestic violence including arrest policies, disposition of criminal charges and sentencing, involvement of children, confidentiality, and health care response. Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor will be the guest speaker at the breakfast. The breakfast will be held at the Martin Center and is a \$10.00 cost per person.

L.A.W. is interested in providing scholarship assistance based on need and interest to students wishing to attend this event. Because tickets will need to be purchased in advance, please come to our meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> to make your reservation and/or request scholarship assistance. If you cannot attend the meeting, or if you have any questions, please email Kerry Renker at [Kerry4@uakron.edu](mailto:Kerry4@uakron.edu).

**Final Thought!**

“Ideals are like stars . . . you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides and following them will reach your destiny.”

*-Daniel Boorstin*