

AJTA News

“The Key to the Top”

Happy New Year !

Welcome back to life as a law student. Some of you are entering the last semester of your law school career . . . and the rest of you have just crossed the half-way point. Whether that thought fills you with excitement or fear (or both), make it a resolution to get the most out of each day.

But don't forget *balance*. The Journal need not be your first priority always, but it should be so *sometimes*.

Membership Meeting

☞ This semester's *required* membership meeting is Thursday, January 18, at 11:00 a.m. in the Trial Courtroom (room 121). The **committees will meet** after a brief general session.

Lunch will be provided.

Board Selection

Believe it or not, the Journal's 31st Editorial Board will be chosen next month.

All interested rising 3L members are encouraged to interview for a position. Although having associate editor or other leadership experience is helpful, it is *not* required. Regardless of your current position on the Journal or your workload thus far, you can volunteer for edits or assignments in the coming weeks that will expose you to our editorial process and will demonstrate your abilities to the editors.

Why be a Journal editor? After all, it looks like it could be a lot of work. Well, it is . . . *but only for editors who are dedicated*. But the benefits will last

a lifetime (and the small scholarship compensation doesn't hurt now). The Journal has a rich heritage of talented people who contributed their time, creativity, money—even “blood, sweat and tears”—into leaving the Journal a better publication and organization than when they arrived. Any many of them began friendships that have lasted for years.

If you are even mildly interested in a position, talk to one or more editors about their responsibilities and about your options. Lynda will also be glad to answer your questions. Ask what you can *do* in the coming weeks to learn more. Interview dates will be noted on the Journal semester calendar. Applications and an interview sign-up sheet will be available in a couple of weeks.

Also consider that the new editorial board will select five **Senior Associate Editors** after it takes office on April 1. These positions may require work during the summer. The senior associate position may be an alternative if you wish to be involved but are unsure whether you have the time to devote to being an editor. Senior associates earn one vesting credit. (NOTE: The new members selected next month will be eligible for positions as well.)

10th Annual Long Range Planning Cookout

Are you a long-term or big-picture thinker? Or have you noticed anything around the office that could use some fresh ideas? *This is your chance to share your thoughts*. The annual long range planning event began expressly to get members—not just editors—brainstorming, particularly about the Journal's

future. It is a great way for all members to affect the Journal's short- and long-term plans. Some of the most innovative changes at the Journal have come from these discussions.

This year's event will take place on **Thursday, February 8**, at 7:00 pm. Watch your email for additional details. *If you know of a location that could handle approximately 15-20 people informally, tell Lynda or Alex*. (And, yes, it has been a cookout in years past, but not always.)

Publication Notes

Issue 30:1, as you know, came in over the holidays and is in your box. Issue 30:2 will be mailed to the printer in the week or so and should be in our hands by the first of March. As to issue 30:3, citechecks will begin next Thursday.

We appreciate all your hard work on these first two books. Please keep up your diligent efforts and hard work. It is quality work that allows us the luxury of continuing the one-citecheck-per-article process and enables us to limit the work load to only a couple of citechecks per person per semester. *Thank you!*

Social Activities

The spring semester calendar is always packed. The main event is usually the Journal's Awards Dinner in March, where plaques will be awarded to outstanding 2L and 3L members, associates, and others. The **Internal Relations Committee** will also plan a semester party, and will host a welcoming luncheon for new members on

February 8. If you have any ideas or suggestions, talk to Chairperson Jamie Durrett or Lynda.

The four-month spring calendar of Journal events will be distributed at the membership meeting.

Personal Tidbits

Birthdays: Keith Walker (2/2), Beth McQuaid (2/10), Stephanie Houston (2/19), Heath Brooks (3/1), Shannon Skipper (3/2).

Don't be left out! Let Lynda know if you have anything to include here (personal accomplishments or announcements about you or another Journal member) in a future newsletter.

Senior Writing Award

One senior member who submits an outstanding Comment or Note this year to the Journal will receive a \$250 cash award from Birmingham law firm, Goozé, King & Horsley.

3L members: Most of you just submitted a paper in fulfillment of your writing requirement. *If you wish your Comment or Note to be considered for this award, you must submit a pristine hard copy meant for the attorneys to read to Tori by Thursday, February 1.*

2L members: Begin working on your senior paper now, and give it your best effort. In addition to possibly earning this award, you may also be published. Your writing requirement deadline is December 2007, but submission deadlines for the issues of volume 31 are April 15, August 15, and December 15, 2007. Be aware that publication selections are made in part on a first-come-first-served basis, and your chances of publication go down within the large group of senior submissions next December, with only one book left to print.

Alumni Update

Upon graduation from Cumberland, 3L Journal members automatically become members of the AJTA National

Alumni Foundation. We attempt to keep accurate contact information on and stay in touch with Journal alumni.

The Journal and the Foundation also publish a newsletter each year. If you are interested in contributing to the alumni newsletter, see Lynda.

On the Friday of Law Week each year, the Foundation Board of Directors meets in the Journal office. This year, that meeting will fall on March 9. The Board is currently working toward permanently funding editorial board scholarships supplemental to those provided by the School.

Additionally, we will host Journal alumni at an **Open House** on the morning of Saturday, March 31. This event takes place during Cumberland's Alumni Weekend, when alumni return to the school for reunions and parties. Members will be invited to our event. Watch for details later.

Finger on the Pulse

How can the average law student stand out in a large field of graduating lawyer hopefuls?

The Journal attempts to augment the law review experience by teaching members how and why to keep their "finger on the pulse" of the legal profession. The goal is to add a dimension to membership that no other law class or activity provides: the practical information, skills, and networking contacts crucial to your future.

• Read and use the *current events bulletin board* in the citecheck room. This bulletin board is a way for members to generate ideas for RDs, student comments, or just items of general interest to attorneys. The quality of the Journal itself will only improve when members know what trial attorneys want to read about and what topics affect their practices. Posting articles and your ideas on the board is a way for other members to learn about these topics.

• The *Mentor Program* takes a large step toward helping members network with practicing Journal alumni. Other alumni events—such as the reception at

the Ballard Law Firm last September—bring current members and alumni together.

Member Recruiting

Please take seriously the recruitment of new members. As you know, students must *decide* to take advantage of the opportunity to write for Journal membership. You, as upperclassmen, can have a role in influencing 1Ls you know to work on their grades and write for membership **this summer**.

Talk about the Journal. *Talk up the Journal*. Seniors, you have too much invested to see your effort risked in the future on a membership too small to function efficiently. For 2L members, the facts are simple numbers: the fewer members, the more each person must do!

Encourage 1Ls *now* to work hard on their grades to earn this one-time opportunity. Point out the benefits of membership on one of the most unique law reviews in the country. (Refer them to the information card they can pick up off our bulletin board on the first floor, or tell them to visit our website.)

If you know any 2Ls who were *not* eligible for the Journal last summer but may have moved up to the top one-third of the class after the fall semester (or any transfer students in the top third) tell them to watch their student box downstairs for information about our Third Semester Writing Program. Invitation letters and emails went out today.

Just a Thought

The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.

Chinese proverb



The AJTA newsletter is printed five times a year. Look for the next issue in March. If you want to include anything in an issue—whether it's Journal related or simply of interest to the members—see Lynda.