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Compiled by John F. Barwell

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To find out which ABA Law Student Division circuit your school is in, read about your circuit, and get contact info for your circuit governor, visit [www.abanet.org/lzd/circuit.html](http://www.abanet.org/lzd/circuit.html). To report news from your school, e-mail your circuit governor and [studentlawyer@abanet.org](mailto:studentlawyer@abanet.org).

**1st Circuit. Vermont Law School** Professor **Cheryl Hanna** and the 10 students in her Women and the Law class recently filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *State of Vermont v. Michael Brillon*. "We decided that rather than have traditional classes, we would turn ourselves into a law firm and write an amicus brief focusing the Court on the impact the decision would have for victims of domestic and sexual violence," says Hanna. The brief was filed in support of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and other organizations throughout the country. The case centers on a defendant's right to a speedy trial and involves a highly controversial split decision of the Vermont Supreme Court. In that decision, the majority ruled that the defendant, a habitual offender who was convicted of felony domestic assault, should be set free due to a three-year delay between his arrest and conviction.

**2nd Circuit. Hofstra University School of Law** launched "Lex Lounge," an invitation-only social networking website for students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Lex Lounge allows members of the Hofstra Law community to communicate with each other about topics such as classes, organizations, competitions, study groups, and carpooling. Members are able to create invitations to events, post photographs or videos, blog, set up RSS feeds, and chat live with other members. The website offers privacy features such as accessibility only to members of Hofstra Law School, while taking advantage of the features offered by larger public social networking sites.

**3rd Circuit. Villanova University School of Law** third-year student **Amanda Lavis** spent the entire fall semester in Washington, D.C., working as an extern for the minority staff of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. In addition to its well-known role reviewing the president's nominees for the federal judiciary, including justices of the Supreme Court, the Senate Judiciary Committee has responsibility for oversight of the Department of Justice (including the Federal Bureau of Investigation) and legislation related to criminal justice, antitrust, immigration, terrorism, human rights, intellectual property, and the Internet. Lavis worked under the supervision of lawyers on the minority staff and was assigned to a variety of projects including legal research, preparation of memoranda and materials for committee hearings and votes, and research on pending legislation and nominees.

**4th Circuit.** Student volunteers with the **Duke University School of Law** Innocence Project scored a victory recently when one of their former clients was exonerated and released from prison after serving 14 years of what was a life sentence. Law students participating in the project reviewed and investigated their client's initial claim of innocence in 2006, 2007, and 2008, working under the supervision of faculty advisers. Duke Law alumni and students who worked on the case include **Meredith Tanchum, Landon Zimmer, Amanda McRae, Mahnoor El Tahry, Julia German, Jesse Haskins, Eric Eisenberg,** and **Dan Queen.**

**5th Circuit. Mercer University— Walter F. George School of Law** student **Erica L. Hickey** is the winner of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers' Second Annual Writing Competition for Law Students. Hickey, whose paper was titled *Gomez-Perez v. Potter—Yet Another Step Away from Textualist Interpretation of Employment Discrimination Statute s*, received a \$1,500 first-place prize. In addition to being posted on the CLEL's website, Hickey's article will be distributed with the CLEL's newsletter, which is seen by over 1,000 fellows practicing in the United States and Canada.

**6th Circuit.** The student bar association at **The Thomas M. Cooley School of Law** held "Cooley for Kids," an event that partnered law students with the local Boys and Girls Club and YMCA to send 500 kids to a baseball game. The SBA purchased a Lansing Lugnuts baseball ticket and a sack lunch for 500 children, all from various schools in the Lansing, Michigan area. Nine of the children were selected as essay winners and awarded the opportunity to run onto the field for the singing of the National Anthem and opening pitch. "Cooley for Kids is a great opportunity for the students, faculty, and staff of Cooley to give back to the community and help promote the morale among the youth in Lansing," says SBA President **Lauren Dye.**



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7th Circuit. First-year University of Illinois College of Law student Scott Wolf used a simple game to raise big money for local youth living in poverty to attend summer camp. Wolf's student-run Illini Summer Opportunity Organization recently hosted the third-annual "Rock, Paper, Scissors" tournament, which drew more than 2,000 U of I students to the event, with all proceeds matched by Illinois alumni and used to send local underprivileged children to summer camp.

8th Circuit. Twelve second-year Washington University School of Law students recently were honored with Carmody MacDonald Legal Practice Excellence Awards for their outstanding performance in legal practice as 1Ls. The annual awards are conferred on one student in each legal practice section. Each recipient is recognized for consistently drafting high-quality memoranda and briefs and for otherwise significantly contributing to the class as a first-year law student. The 2009 recipients are Genevra Alberti, Sophie Fortin, Jeffrey Johnson, Amanda Katz, Ryan Kusmin, Ryan O'Malley, David Osborne, Rupa Rajagopalan, Jarrod Reece, Matthew Schoonover, Zachary Simpson, and Justin Young.

9th Circuit. Chapman University School of Law first-year student Branigan Robertson was the grand-prize winner and \$10,000 law school scholarship recipient of Access Group's "What Inspired Me to Go to Law School" video contest. Robertson's video was a satirical commentary knocking down many of the stereotypes (money, prestige, a successful love life) pertaining to a new lawyer's lifestyle.

10th Circuit. J. Benjamin Lambert , a third-year student at The University of Tulsa College of Law, won first place in the 2009 International Association of Defense Counsel legal writing contest. His entry, "Professional Liability and International Lawyering: An Overview," focuses on ethical concerns with legal outsourcing, the formation of international joint ventures, and other issues facing lawyers working in the United States and abroad.

11th Circuit. Seventeen students from Georgetown University Law Center recently released a report on the status of Iraqi refugees in the United States. The students from the Law Center's Human Rights Institute and the student group Human Rights Action surveyed refugees settled here since the U.S.-led 2003 invasion of Iraq. The report shows that the United States, while welcoming Iraqi refugees in greater numbers than the rest of the world, has failed in successfully integrating them into U.S. communities. Of the more than 30,000 Iraqis resettled here, most find that their new home fails to live up to its reputation as "the land of opportunity."

12th Circuit. While providing supervised pro bono service in the Latah County Courthouse Assistance Office last summer, University of Idaho College of Law student Ashley Rokyta answered local citizens' questions regarding myriad sticky and often complex legal issues, including inquiries on divorce. In response, Rokyta developed a visual aid that moves divorce seekers step by step through the process. The two sets of single-sheet checklists can be e-mailed or printed. One is for use when filing for divorce with minor children, the other for divorce without minor children. The tools were so effective in Latah County, they have now been adopted throughout Idaho.

13th Circuit. The new student lawyers of the Tulane University Law School clinic were recently sworn in to practice law under the provisions of Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XX in the en banc courtroom of the Louisiana State Supreme Court. The 75 new clinicians from the school's three clinics were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the court's work areas, the library, and the courtroom overlooking the French Quarter and the Mississippi River. The Civil, Criminal & Juvenile Law Clinic celebrated its 30th Swearing In Ceremony, the Environmental Law Clinic celebrated its 20th, and the Domestic Violence Law Clinic its 8th.

14th Circuit. Not satisfied with a mere five degrees from the University of Nevada , Alejandro Patricio Yanez is now going for his sixth as a first-year student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law . His UNLV career was launched in 1995 with two bachelor's degrees: one in psychology and one in political science. Two master's degrees followed: an MS in marriage and family counseling and an MA in clinical psychology. In 2006, he earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, followed a year later by part-time teaching in the UNLV psychology department.

15th Circuit. The Mexican American Law Student Association chapter at The University of New Mexico School of Law was named Law Student Organization of the Year by the Hispanic National Bar Association. The award was presented to second-year student and MALSA President Danny Milo during the association's annual convention in Albuquerque. The Hispanic Bar cited MALSA for its commitment to promoting and fostering the advancement of Latinos in higher education and for a variety of outreach programs, including its annual Minority Mixer, high school and middle school mentoring program, an LSAT prep course, and its Community Legal Analysis Skills Seminar, which is offered to incoming students prior to their first day of school.

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