

THE DIGEST

WIDENER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW ~ HARRISBURG CAMPUS
law.widener.edu



Widener University

School of Law
Associate Provost and Dean

January 11, 2011

Dear Students:

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful break and are looking forward to the opportunities awaiting you this semester. As I reflect on how far our law school has come in a relatively short period of time, I am excited about your future. The preparation you are receiving today will provide you with the tools you need to be successful and to make a positive contribution. I would like to share my thoughts on a tool that is critical to the success of any aspiring lawyer: professionalism.

As a lawyer, you trade on the strength of your reputation every day. A stellar reputation can open career doors, build a client base, or persuade the opposition. Conversely, a bad reputation can stunt your career growth, cause financial ruin and create insurmountable challenges in attracting and maintaining clients. It is important to recognize that, as a law student, you are building the foundation of your reputation *now*. While your current activities may not appear to have lasting implications, they do. You can and should take control of the image you are projecting and exercise extreme care in all of your interactions.

The legal profession is particularly conservative and requires adherence to a strict code of professionalism. By now, you already may be aware of aspects of this code such as honoring your agreements and meeting deadlines. Other aspects may be less obvious. For example, you should be prepared to address all judges, lawyers and legal professionals with whom you come in contact either in person or by e-mail with respect, civility and humility because your reputation and opportunities can be diminished by the smallest of slights. Often these individuals have a tremendous bank of knowledge but can be easily convinced not to share it with you in the face of rude behavior or an ambivalent attitude. Moreover, I urge you to exercise particular care when sending e-mails. Although they may be one of the most efficient forms of communication, they are completely ineffective when the tone is disrespectful, sarcastic or condescending or the format is too casual given the audience.

On a related subject, during Professionalism Day you were advised of the potential benefits and pitfalls of social networking sites. Some legal employers regularly check these sites looking for any information they can find about a prospective candidate. Specifically, they are interested in finding those red flags or items that suggest that your values or lifestyle would be at odds with that of the organization. Although you may think that your pages are private, they are not. Legal employers are finding ways around privacy restrictions. I mention this not to infringe on your First Amendment rights but to ensure that you are using these social networking sites to your greatest advantage. For example, sites such as LinkedIn can be a powerful networking tool if used properly.

In some ways, the preceding points exist on the most basic level of professional competence. For the modern-day lawyer, however, this code of professionalism goes further and is more subtle. Today's legal employers require that lawyers possess not only intelligence but also present themselves professionally at all times, and exhibit skills such as problem solving, emotional intelligence and leadership. These skills are essential in building and retaining a client base. Widener Law is committed to helping you build all of these important skills.

Some final thoughts:

To the first year students, I know the wait for grades can create anxiety as you return for second semester. As you begin your second semester, take the opportunity to re-evaluate your study habits to ensure you are maximizing your chances for success in law school. Studies show that the best indicator for success on the bar exam is success in law school. When grades come out, if your grades exceed your expectations, be sure to continue your hard work. If your grades are not where you would like them to be, make changes to your study habits early and you will have plenty of time to see results from your efforts.

To those who will graduate in May, congratulations! Although you are preparing to enter the legal profession during a challenging moment in our national history, you can be confident that your law degree is able to withstand the winds of any potential change. Refuse to be paralyzed by what you see or hear in the media. Instead, commit to redoubling your efforts, shoring up your personal and professional networks, and seeking out advice and opportunities through the Career Development Office, trusted faculty and mentors. The entire Widener community is dedicated to helping you successfully transition from student to lawyer. It is important to budget adequate time to study for the bar. Start now by reviewing your course materials. Make sure you are aware of the subjects covered on your bar exam of choice and take advantage of our early bar preparation programs. On a related subject, you also should carve out time to complete the bar exam application. You will be required to complete detailed questionnaires concerning your past criminal and driving history, places of residence, and reference forms from your past employers. It is imperative that you take this fact-finding seriously because lack of disclosure on a bar exam application can form the basis for denial of admission. Similarly, missing bar exam application deadlines carries significant penalties including paying increased fees or possibly waiting until the next bar administration.

I encourage all of you to seize this moment. Study well because the legal issues you are discussing are critical and the world needs critical thinkers. Be diligent in your search for part-time, pro bono summer or permanent positions and your persistence will yield results. I will continue to spread the good news about Widener Law and the wealth of talent that exists here. I wish you the best!

Sincerely,



Linda L. Ammons, J.D.

Associate Provost and Dean

December/January's "Winner of Widener Indispensible Essentials" (WOWIE) is Jonathan McVey.

Jonathan McVey (3L) completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in political science. As an undergraduate, Jonathan held multiple leadership roles within student organizations. He served as president and secretary of the Political Science Student Leadership committee, which was an organization with the mission of promoting the practice and study of political science at the university. Jonathan also held the roles of the vice president and treasurer of Rho Tau Chi at IUP, a military service fraternity.

This month's W.O.W.I.E. has maintained his knack for being an effective leader at Widener-Harrisburg. Jonathan is currently the president of the [Environmental Law and Policy Society](#). This student organization aims to educate students and the community on local, national, and global environmental issues.

Jonathan was originally drawn to Widener Law's Harrisburg campus because of its reputation for graduates who enter public service. Fittingly, Jonathan would like to practice environmental law for either a state or federal agency after graduating in May 2011. When asked what inspired him to choose practicing law as a career, his response was, "My parents inspired me, although attorneys, they have worked for state government for most of their professional careers and I thought law would be a good outlet for me to do the same."

An interesting fact about this 3L is that he enjoys rock climbing. As you can tell by his picture, he is well-seasoned in this sport! Jonathan has been climbing for seven years and plans to continue climbing for many years to come.



Jonathan McVey's advice for first-year students: "Don't lose track of the days, you will be petitioning to graduate and applying for jobs sooner than you think."

MOOT COURT HONOR SOCIETY

21st Annual

Harrisburg/Delaware Moot Court Intrascholastic Competition

An information session will be held on **Tuesday, January 11, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. in The Pit**, for anyone who would like to receive information about the competition. **You do NOT need to be a current Moot Court member to participate in the competition.** The problem for the Harrisburg Campus will be released on January 21 with the preliminary rounds taking place during mid-February. More information regarding the competition will be given to the participants once sign ups are complete. It is important to note that once you sign up for the competition, you **will** be required to participate. In addition, top performing participants have a chance to become members of the Moot Court Honor Society.

The final round of the competition between Harrisburg and Delaware will be held on **Wednesday, February 23, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.** on the Delaware Campus. All participants must be available for this date pending their performance and advancement in the competition.

Any questions regarding the competition can be forwarded to Shelby Grabowski at shelby.grabowski@gmail.com.



STUDY ABROAD - 2011

	June 12 – July 15, 2011 Nairobi Summer Program
	June 24 – July 24, 2011 Venice Summer Program
	June 12 – July 15, 2011 Sydney Summer Program
	June 5 – July 2, 2011 Lausanne Summer Program

**WIDENER HAS SUMMER LAW
INSTITUTES IN SYDNEY,
NAIROBI, LAUSANNE, AND
VENICE**

**LET YOUR ADVENTUROUS
SPIRIT WORK FOR YOU AND
EARN UP TO 6 CREDITS IN FOUR
WEEKS WHILE VISITING
EXCITING PLACES.**

FOR INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

law.widener.edu/summer

**Or contact Arlene Trapuzzano at
artrapuzzano@widener.edu**



STEP UP AND TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Widener Law is enrolled in the "**ABA-EPA Climate Challenge**," which requires the school to recycle most of our mixed office paper. Mixed office paper is defined as all types of white paper, colored paper, file folders, and envelopes. Please do your part to ensure the school continues to meet the Climate Challenge by placing all of your mixed office paper in the recycling containers and not the trash basket.

Widener Law's recycling program is "**single stream**," meaning you can commingle other commodities in any of the recycling containers along with the paper (e.g. plastic bottles, metal cans, and newspapers). Just be sure the bottle or can is empty before depositing in the recycling container.

Help us continue to meet the ABA-EPA Climate Challenge



Resolve to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The New Year is traditionally a time when change is praised and encouraged. Now is a great time to start the New Year off with a plan. Maybe you want to break that plastic bag habit, get that commute to be a group affair or increase your recycling efforts. Begin planning your changes for 2011 today.

Ready, set, go green!



CLOSINGS OR DELAYS!!!

THE FOLLOWING STATIONS WILL GIVE INFORMATION
ON CLOSINGS OR DELAYS FOR THE HARRISBURG CAMPUS

WGAL-TV 8

www.wgal.com

WHP-TV CBS 21

www.whptv.com

WHTM-TV ABC 27

www.abc27.com

WLYH-TV 15

www.cw15.com

WITF-TV 33 & 89.5 FM

www.witf.org

WRBT - 94.9 FM

www.bo RADIO.com

KISS 99.3 FM

www.993kissfm.com

WRVV - 97.3 FM

www.river973.com

WLAN - 96.9 FM

www.wlan.com

WHP - 580 AM

www.whp580.com

**If you are in doubt as to whether or not the School of Law is closed, please call the
Harrisburg Campus Information Line at 717-541-1939.**



SIDEBAR CAFÉ

January 10—14, 2011

Breakfast from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Monday	Kettle Classic Montaque's Deli Café Feature Itza Pizza	CLOSED
Tuesday	Kettle Classic Montaque's Deli Café Feature Itza Pizza	Cheddar Cheese Soup Ham & Pepperoni Melt Egg & Bacon on a Bagel Cheese Pizza by the Slice
Wednesday	Kettle Classic Montaque's Deli Café Feature Itza Pizza	Chicken Corn Soup Carolina Gold BBQ Sandwich Egg, Ham and Cheese on a Bagel Pepperoni Pizza by the Slice
Thursday	Kettle Classic Montaque's Deli Café Feature Itza Pizza	Cream of Broccoli Soup Chicken Caesar Wrap Egg and Cheese on a Roll Broccoli Pizza by the Slice
Friday	Kettle Classic Montaque's Deli Café Feature Itza Pizza	Manhattan Clam Chowder Buffalo Ranch Chicken Sandwich Egg & Sausage Muffin Meat Lover's Pizza by the Slice