

12-2004

Museletter: November/December 2004

Caroline L. Osborne
University of Richmond

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/museletter>



Part of the [Other Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Osborne, Caroline L., "Museletter: November/December 2004" (2004). *Museletter*. Book 74.
<http://scholarship.richmond.edu/museletter/74>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Muse Law Library at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Museletter by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.

Museletter

THIS ISSUE:

<i>Exam 1, 2, 3s</i>	1
<i>Id's Please</i>	2
<i>Two Titles</i>	3

Fall 2004 Regular Library Hours

Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Midnight

Mon.-Thurs.
7:30 a.m. - Midnight

Friday
7:30 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving
(Nov. 23 — Nov. 26)
Nov. 23 and 24
7:30 a.m. — 6:00p.m.

Nov. 25 Closed

Nov. 26
1:00 — 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Break
(Dec. 17—Jan. 9)
Dec 17, Dec. 20 —Dec. 23
Jan. 3—Jan. 7
7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Dec. 18, 19, 24— Jan 2, Jan 8
Closed

EXAM 1, 2, 3s

By Caroline L. Osborne

As Thanksgiving approaches and thoughts of football, turkey, stuffing, rice and gravy, cranberry sauce and pecan pie fill our thoughts it is also the signal of the approach of yet another right of passage, end of semester exams. So how does one effectively prepare for an end of semester exam?

A typical law school exam is designed to require the student to demonstrate not only substantive knowledge of the subject, but analysis or recognition of the issues and how the rules, or black letter law, apply to facts given. Preparing for a law school exam is a different exercise from the process most use to prepare for exams in undergraduate courses. Thus, the common references to outlines, hypotheticals and study groups. But what exactly are these and how are they best utilized?

The greatest utility in an outline is in its preparation. There are a variety of different types of outlines and selecting the type which works best for one's personal learning style is key. Some prefer the traditional rigid outline format of I, A,1 etc. Others enjoy charts and more visual components while still others prefer essay or paragraph versions. Select the type which works best as the greatest benefit derived is from the actual process of organizing and synthesizing the information. Placing the material into a context or structure to better understand the elements, policies, theories, and relationships is the key. The goal of the outline process should be to structure one's knowledge into a usable format.

After the initial substantive outline is completed there is a second outlining step which many find useful. That is the creation of the "checklist" or the review outline, essentially an outline of the outline. For some it will be the A, B, C portion of their outline or the major topics of the course. As a rule of thumb, this outline should not exceed one page. Its sole purpose being to ensure that no major topic is overlooked. Some suggest memorizing this and reproducing the review outline as the first step in taking an exam. It can often be helpful in issue spotting during a time pressured exam.

Study groups and exam files are other common resources for exam preparation.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

The library keeps past exams as donated by the professors at their discretion. Some are available via the web to students with a valid University of Richmond Internet connection at <http://lobo.richmond.edu/examfile>. Others are available upon request at the circulation desk. Old exams can be an excellent tool for practicing issue spotting and getting a feel for a particular professor's exams. The caveat, however, is that absent a model answer there is no way to verify that one correctly spotted the issues intended by the professor. Enter the utility of the study group. A group consensus and discussion can shed light on the issues located or not located, as the case may be. Group discussion also facilitates looking at issues in different contexts and the sharing of divergent opinions can enhance analysis.

So what does one do upon receiving the exam? Read the instructions and read them carefully. Do not lose points because you failed to give the instructor the answer requested. Answer the question asked, not the one you want to be asked or wish to be asked, but the actual question asked. Determine what the end game is, what is to be resolved. Review the facts given. Identify the key facts and parties. Ensure that you are making the right argument on behalf of the right party. Do not invent facts. Outline your answer. Organized and clear answers are appreciated. Prioritize your answers. Not all issues are necessarily of equal importance or value. Support your argument with persuasive reasoning and interweaving of the facts within the law.

Finally, the most important part of surviving law school exams is to remember the basics. Take time to eat and sleep. Law school exams can often be trial by endurance. After the exam is over let it go. Take the night off and relax before beginning again.

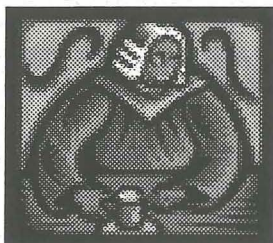
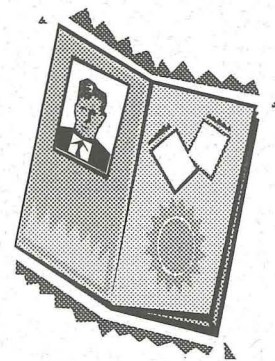
Extended Hours and Restricted Access During Exams

The Law Library will limit evening access during exams in order to provide students a quieter place to study. On Sunday through Thursday, only the following persons will be able to enter: law students, faculty, staff and their families; University of Richmond students and faculty; alumni of the Law School and lawyers with a valid bar card. These restrictions are in effect from Sunday, December 5 through Thursday, December 9 and Sunday, December 12 through Thursday, December 16.

The Library will check the ID of every person who enters. Please give us your cooperation by carrying your University of Richmond ID and showing it when asked.

Remember the Law Library does not request patrons arriving prior to 5:00 p.m. to leave; however, if persons not in the proscribed categories leave they will not be permitted to re-enter.

The library will also have extended hours for December 3 through December 16. Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Friday 7:30 a.m. to midnight and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to midnight.



From *Virginia Law Journal* for 1891:

Young Lawyer met Old Lawyer carrying a stack of books up the steps of the courthouse. "Why, Old Lawyer," said Young Lawyer, "I thought you carried all that in your head."

"I do," said Old Lawyer with a grin. "These are for the judge!"

Two Titles -- Two Good Reads

Timothy L. Coggins

Want a good legal mystery that moves quickly? How about an autobiographical story by one of America's well known lawyers? You might enjoy one of these two titles over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Non-Fiction First: David Boies, *Courting Justice: From NY Yankees v. Major League Baseball to Bush v. Gore, 1997-2000* (NY: Miramax Books/Hyperion, 2004) (KF382 .B64 2004)

The publisher describes David Boies' book, *Courting Justice*, as an insider's look at the American legal system with explanations about the system's strengths and weaknesses, how the system defends liberties, and how it can be abused. But the book is more. Regardless of a person's politics, most will enjoy this book. Boies writes in a straightforward and sympathetic manner, similar to the style that he is noted for in the courtroom. He takes a look at his clients, the behind-the-scenes dramas, and the eleventh hour strategies that have helped him reach the top of the legal profession. He writes about his famous deposition of Bill Gates and the government's case against Microsoft and IBM in major anti-trust cases and the media-saturated battles defending Vice President Al Gore during the 2000 Florida recount. Boies also covers his other cases with clients such as Calvin Klein, Don Imus, George Steinbrenner and Garry Shandling.

But some of the most interesting parts of the book deal with other aspects of Boies' life. He writes about his boyhood in Illinois, his marriage at an early age, his children, his law school career, and his work at one of the nation's top law firms. Boies also chronicles his lifelong fight with dyslexia. His book is entertaining, and Boies attempts in the book to educate the reader with explanations of the finer points of the law in his cases and the trial tactics and strategies that he used.

The book's easy to read -- one that you'll enjoy.

Fiction Next: Jilliane Hoffman, *Retribution* (NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2004) (Law Library -- Recreational Reading shelf)

Retribution is Jilliane Hoffman's first novel, and you can add Ms. Hoffman's name to the long list of American lawyers who have moved successfully from prosecuting crime to writing about it. In 1988 Ms. Hoffman's main character, Chloe Larson spends her time in study groups preparing to take the N.Y. bar exam and dealing with a boy friend who wants her to spend more time with him. Late one night, after an evening out with her boy friend that ends with an argument with him, Larson heads into her apartment, unaware that a stalker with a clown mask lies outside her first floor apartment window. The stalker enters her apartment, and his attack and torture of Larson lasts until the morning. She is left by the stalker for dead. The next morning a friend discovers her, and she is rushed to the hospital. She survives the attack, but the attacker is never caught. Larson remembers the attack vividly, but she remembers only a few things about the attacker -- his voice and a small tattoo (revealed in a lightning strike) during the attack.

Continued on page 4

Twelve years later and after many years of nightmares and therapy, Larson lives in Florida. She's now C.J. Townsend, a respected and seasoned prosecutor for Dade County and a member of a task force involved in the investigation of the disappearance and murder of eleven young girls over the last year. Ten of the girls have been found, and their hearts are missing, giving the serial killer the nickname "Cupid." No evidence is found at any of the murder scenes. Then, acting on an anonymous tip, the police pull over drug dealing William Bantling. They discover a young woman in the trunk of his car, and, you guessed it, her heart is missing.

In the courtroom, Townsend, the prosecutor, hears Bantling speak. Then, she sees that he also has a small tattoo. Her nightmare begins again, and she's faced with an ethical dilemma. Should she admit to her bosses that Bantling is the man who raped her many years ago or should she keep quiet and make certain that Bantling gets what he deserves? The decision is complicated by the fact that she discovers that the statute of limitations in N.Y. has passed for the rape, so he can never be prosecuted for that crime.

Pick up this book -- it's a good courtroom drama with some interesting twists and surprises that'll keep you entertained.

Caroline L. Osborne Editor
Museletter
Law Library, School of Law
University of Richmond
Richmond, VA 23173

The Museletter is the official newsletter of the
William Taylor Muse Law Library at the School of
Law of the University of Richmond, Richmond,
VA 23173.

Editor: Caroline Osborne
Contributors: John Barden