



HLJ Alumni Mixer: Thursday, October 24, 2013

The *Hastings Law Journal* invites you to our Fall Alumni Mixer! Come reconnect with your fellow alumni and meet current HLJ members. Light snacks and drinks will be served.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing your RSVP to alumni@hastingslawjournal.org.

Date: Thursday, October 24th, 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: Skyroom at Hastings



Current Issue:
Volume 64, Issue 6
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2L Member Spotlight: Kristy Brady

1. What is your primary area of legal interest? What are your career goals? I am interested in business law and working with startups and emerging growth companies. My background is in biology and I am especially excited to work with clients in the life sciences. I plan on pursuing a partner track at a large law firm.



2. Where did you work last summer? What was your favorite part of your job? Last summer I worked at the California Office of the Attorney General in the Criminal Division. I researched and wrote briefs for post-conviction proceedings. Criminal law itself is inherently interesting, and I also appreciated the opportunity to get a closer look at that part of our society. But my favorite part of working there was the people. I really liked all of the attorneys I had the opportunity to work with - they were friendly, supportive, and very smart.

3. What is the most important thing you have learned as a member of HLJ? How do you hope HLJ will prepare you for your career? Reading papers polished for publication is a pleasure. And persuasive writing is important for any attorney's practice, so HLJ is a good opportunity to see how different people present arguments.

4. What do you like to do outside of law school? I have a dog, Seamus, so I spend my free time at the park throwing the ball for him, or taking him for walks in Golden Gate Park. He's great, because he forces me to take breaks from reading casebooks. I also love cooking tasty food and trying out new recipes.

Spring Banquet

Thanks to all who attended our Spring Banquet and congratulations to the Class of 2013.



Meet the Employers

HLJ's Second Annual Meet the Employers event was a huge success. Thank you to all of the employers who attended and sponsored our event. Email alumni@hastingslawjournal.org for upcoming sponsorship opportunities.

3L Note Spotlight: Katelyn Keegan

*The True Man & The Battered Woman:
Prospects for Gender-Neutral Narratives in Self-Defense Doctrines*



The recent rise of controversial Stand Your Ground laws has sparked a discussion on when a person is justified in using deadly force. In comparing the roots of Stand Your Ground laws, known as the True Man doctrine, with another theory of self-defense, Battered Women's Syndrome, it is apparent that these doctrines fall along gendered lines. Because these doctrines are so dependent on stereotypical gender roles, they preclude individuals from using either justification effectively if their experience falls outside of the accepted narrative. Women should be justified in using force against an abusive partner just as much as a man should feel empowered to protect himself, his family, and his home in the face of an attacker. There should be a middle-ground between helplessness and empowerment in justification narratives that can be used by reasonable people claiming self-defense. Creating a gender-neutral framework based on reasonableness could potentially counteract the threat of conventional stereotypes on criminal justice. Unfortunately, legal reform may be insufficient to solve the problem. Social psychology demonstrates that juror decision-making depends so heavily on the commonly accepted narrative that jurors may cling to the historic interpretations of the doctrines despite legal reforms. Any hope for changes to the legal doctrine must take into account jurors' use of narratives and the potential prejudices that coincide with traditional decision-making psychology.

Katelyn received her B.A. in International Development Studies from UCLA in 2009. After graduation, she will join Schiff Hardin as an associate.

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Alumni Spotlight: Yvonne Pham ('11)

What was your HLJ editorial position? Production Editor. Ask me anything about introductory signals!

2. Where are you working now? What type of law are you practicing? After summering with Reed Smith LLP, I joined the San Francisco office in January 2012 as an associate in the Commercial Litigation group. In January 2013, I decided I've done all the litigation I wanted to do in this lifetime and became a transactional attorney. I represent financial institutions and borrowers in syndicated and bilateral financings, acquisition financings, transactions with venture capital and private equity backed companies and cross-border transactions.



3. How did Hastings prepare you for your career? Hastings taught me to be adaptable, to write for my audience. I didn't learn how to write an A+ exam; I learned how to write an A+ exam for Professor Keane . . . and a great bench memo for Judge Chesney. Today, I work with many assigning attorneys with their own quirks and preferences; I learn what they like and adapt my work product accordingly.

4. How did HLJ prepare you for your career? At Hastings, I studied solo and did not have many opportunities to work in groups. HLJ was the one exception: I was surrounded by hardworking and intelligent people with diverse interests, and we all worked toward one goal: producing the best Volume 62 we could. As an attorney, I never fly solo - I'm always working in teams, and my time in HLJ prepared me well for this.

5. Do you have any advice for 2L and 3L students in this economy? Be purposeful, but adaptable. Be purposeful with your job search - think about what practice areas you like, litigation vs. corporate, whether you are open to all practices, or whether you even want to pursue a career as a lawyer. Then, do what you have to do and meet who you have to meet to get there. Be adaptable. If that dream job is unavailable or out of reach right now, take an alternative route -- if you're purposeful, it will lead to the same destination. (See my answer to question 2 above.)

Questions or comments? Contact Kaitlin Keohane, Executive Development Editor, Vol. 65.

Email us at hlj@hastingslawjournal.org or call (415) 581-8960.

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