

November 11, 2002

## Letter from the Dean regarding LRAP

by Dean Thomas M. Mengler

During the visit of the ABA accreditation site inspection team, team members expressed concern to me, Associate Dean Schiltz and President Dease over the disparity between the high expectations of many of our students about the scope and breadth of the School of Law's loan repayment assistance program and the actual budgeted resources and purposes of this program. I am writing you to describe our LRAP program and to give you some sense of the resources that we currently have in place.



Dean Thomas M. Mengler

The School of Law is planning to establish a loan repayment assistance program that would forgive some student loans associated with tuition expenses incurred as a result of enrollment in the School of Law. General principles and priorities of the program include:

- Loan forgiveness will be available to law school graduates who take positions with governmental or non-profit community service organizations whose goals are consistent with the Catholic mission of the University;
- The target organizations will include those that serve the unmet needs of society as a whole;
- Primary consideration will go to graduates working in attorney positions;
- Loans will be forgiven based on annual service to an eligible organization;
- Loans will be based upon actual indebtedness incurred in relation to attendance at the School of Law. This amount will be

### By the Numbers

**Average Tuition Discount**

Year/Class	Discount Percentage
2004	67%
2005	50%
Few years	20%

**Amount budgeted for LRAP:** \$40,000 per year

**Avg. Percentage of Law Students going into Public Service\*:** 2.7%

**Number of jobs for grads in UST Clinic:** 3

\* Based on Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools (2003 edition) statistics for the class of 2000.

based upon the tuition paid during tenure at the law school, less scholarships and other grants not requiring repayment;

- Special consideration will be accorded to the graduates who serve in our Interprofessional Clinic as "clinic fellows." Clinic fellows will be recent graduates who will work in the clinic under the supervision of our clinical law faculty and who will participate in the education and supervision of our clinical students. We are budgeted to have three such fellows in the clinic, each most likely serving two-year terms. Each clinical fellow will receive a competitive salary and significant loan forgiveness.

Thus, there are two features to our program: *one*, a traditional LRAP, which will provide loan repayment assistance to graduates who work in the offices of outside governmental and legal services providers; and, *two*, loan repayment assistance to our graduates who work as clinic fellows in our own

*See Mengler on page 2*

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**Next TommieLaw Student News issue will be published November 21. Submissions needed by November 16.**

*Newsletter meeting held at noon Tuesdays in TMH 252*



## Mengler (Continued from page 1)

Interprofessional Clinic. I believe the latter feature, our clinic fellows program, is truly innovative. It will allow us to prepare some of our graduates for a career in public interest law and, at the same time, expand the capacity of our clinic to serve the educational needs of our students. And it will serve the important goal, which all other LRAPs fail to do, of increasing the amount of legal services provided to the underserved in our society.

Budgeted funding for the first feature, the traditional LRAP, is substantial compared to the resources provided by most law schools. We are currently budgeted to provide \$40,000 of loan repayment assistance per year. This disbursement would rank St. Thomas among the top 30 law schools in the country, according to 1999 statistics obtained by the National Association for Public Interest Law. This amount will permit us to provide meaningful assistance to our graduates who pursue public interest careers.

But I do not foresee that the currently budgeted resources will be substantial enough to address the needs of all eligible students, if we reasonably assume (as I believe we should) that more St. Thomas students will pursue legal careers in which they serve the underserved than at most other law schools. The national average at other law schools for positions of this type is less than 3% of the student body. If we expect our students to pursue these types of careers at a higher percentage (perhaps twice or three times the national average), then I foresee that the budgeted resources in place will provide meaningful assistance to many of our eligible graduates, but will not be sufficient to retire their debts. Indeed, the amount budgeted may not permit us to provide any loan repayment assistance to some of our

eligible students and will likely not permit us to provide total loan forgiveness to any of our eligible students.

I am mindful that with regard to the first two classes at St. Thomas, there will be far less tuition debt than for classes in later years. Our inaugural class, the Class of 2004, received an enormous amount of scholarship aid — an average tuition discount of 67%. That is, the average student in our first class is obligated to pay only one-third of the tuition costs. This year's first-year class, the Class of 2005, received average scholarship packages that amount to a 50% tuition discount. Within a few years, this substantial tuition discount will

*“I foresee that the budgeted resources in place will provide meaningful assistance to many of our eligible graduates, but will not be sufficient to retire their debts.”*

be reduced to the typical tuition discount at established, well-regarded law schools, about 20%. Thus, our ongoing challenge to reduce tuition costs for our students will increase in the coming years.

I have raised these issues with the University and our Board of Governors. The key in the coming years will be to continue to raise resources for the School of Law. We are off to a great start. We are truly blessed that the University and its benefactors have already pledged to provide significant short- and long-term resources, making possible the construction of our fabulous new law building and the recruitment of a talented faculty and student body.

These generous resources will be sufficient to fund the basic needs and operations of a small law school, but they are not significant enough yet to fund all of the programmatic goals and missions of the School of Law. In the coming years, I and others at the University will be seeking to build an endowment that will ensure, among other priorities, our capacity to recruit a talented and service-oriented student body, who will be able financially to pursue careers in legal services, as well as in the public and private sector.

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, Nov. 7

#### \* “Resume Clinic”

4:00-6:00

An opportunity to have a professional review your resumé and give you brief and honest feedback. No appointment needed.

TMH First Floor Lounge

### Thursday, Nov. 14

#### \* “Financial Stress Busters”

12:00-12:45

Are your finances (or the lack of them) stressing you out? This discussion focuses on available financial resources for students as well as ideas for making the money you have go farther.

TMH 204 A & B

#### \* MJF Student Chapter Meeting

4:00 - Room TBA

### Tuesday, Nov. 19

#### \* “Legal Consultation Services”

4:00-6:00

Meet with a lawyer to discuss your legal concerns provided by Moore, Costello and Hart each first and third Tuesday.

TMH 110

### Thursday, Nov. 21

#### \* “Resume Clinic”

4:00-6:00

An opportunity to have a professional review your resumé and give you brief and honest feedback. No appointment needed.

TMH First Floor Lounge

### TommieLaw News Editorial Board

**Editor:** Elizabeth Odette

**Contributors:** Susan Beltz, Jenny Hon, Matt Schultz, Natalie Walz

**Faculty Advisor:** Celia M. Rumann

TommieLaw Student News is published bi-monthly throughout the school year. The deadline for submissions is one week prior to publication. All submissions subject to approval. We reserve the right not to publish every submission.

# Reflection on Senator Paul Wellstone

by Larry McDonough

*Adjunct Professor*

*University of St. Thomas School of Law*

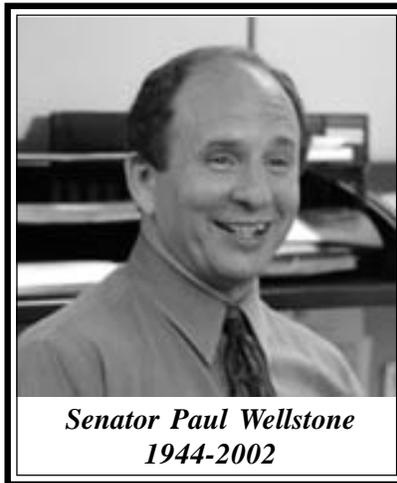
I have known Paul Wellstone for 20 years. Paul was a champion of my community of legal aid workers for the poor, and the many communities of low-income people we serve. Many people talk in churches, schools, or social settings about lending a hand to the poor, disenfranchised, and oppressed. They wonder why there isn't someone there for the little guy. They think about it while watching "A Christmas Carol," waiting for Scrooge to become the better person he is capable of being.

Not nearly enough work towards this principle on a daily basis, let alone consider it in the voting booth. Others even reject it. Paul and Sheila Wellstone worked on it with every moment of their time and with every ounce of their energy. In doing so they were not unique among citizens. There are many who have devoted their lives to the public interest. But they were unique among national leaders in their desire to serve those all but forgotten.

Some claimed that Paul went too far, that he was only against things, didn't get anything done, and received financial support from outside the state. It only looked like he too went far for his principles and for those he tried to help because he rose above the pack in doing so. He stood for many things, but was not afraid to oppose what would harm the most defenseless, whether they were here, around the country, or around the world. He got so much done, but often for those who are invisible to many: the poor, disabled, victims of violence, and small business owners, and farmers. I knew that when my youngest daughter Rosie was born with physical and mental disabilities, Paul would be there for her. He received support from around the country because so many people do not have a voice in their representatives. Paul was the voice for Minnesota and the world we live in.

I volunteered on each of his campaigns, played jazz piano for his fundraisers, and visited whenever I could. He always made time for me. Paul and Sheila both remembered so much about my family in between our meetings, and they took such pride in

our accomplishments. When my daughter Shannon invited Paul to a band concert, he wrote back. Paul even called from an airport when he saw I was the focus of a newspaper article. These last few days I learned that so many other people had similar experiences. Perhaps everyone they touched were among their best friends.



In 1968, at age 12, I was old enough to be aware of the deaths of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy, but not old or aware enough to fully comprehend how their deaths touched so many people. While I came to understand it over time, I did not "feel" it until now.

My 16-year-old daughter Kelsey also feels it. Working on her first campaign, she will not be able to work on another for him. When she was four years old, she thought Paul owned the color green. She called me from school when she heard of the crash, and we cried together on the phone. She has never known a time when Paul was not her senator, and he is the standard against which she and her friends measure politicians. That alone is a great legacy, leaving me with a sense of optimism in the midst of dark times.

Whenever I would see Paul and Sheila, I would start by thanking them for all that they did, and how they inspired so many. If I didn't talk fast enough, Paul would cut me off midstream and thank me, and my legal

aid colleagues, for all that we do in service to the poor. He said that "we" were "his" heroes. I think Paul and Sheila felt that way about so many: that all of the people they touched also touched them. Perhaps we all had the same lasting impact on them that they had on us.

I did not know the others on the plane, but have learned a lot about them in recent days. As I am reminded how Paul viewed so many others as his hero's, I see them as my hero's. They are among the many citizens past, present, and future, who have taken on the mantle of social justice. They work for the benefit of others beyond any benefit to themselves, often without any personal knowledge of many of the people aided by their work.

So how do we remember Paul and Sheila, Marcia, Mary, Tom, William, Richard, and Michael? Lend a hand to someone in need, give time and money to organizations who do the same, and work and vote for candidates who want the same.

## Student Government Update

by Jenny Hon

*Student Government Secretary*

Student Government is pleased to inform the students that we will have a microwave again. The student government has bought a microwave to be used by the first and second year law students.

We also purchased a camera that will help to illustrate the St. Thomas Law School web page.

Student government has also set up opportunities to volunteer at the Soup Kitchen and we need people to help out. They are scheduled for the first Saturday of every month.

## Getting to know you

*An alumna of UST returns to become the Associate Dean of Administration. The following are responses by Nora Byrne Fitzpatrick to questions asked by the Newsletter Team regarding her return to Minnesota.*

**Q:** The Newsletter Team was wondering if you would be willing to answer a few questions for a profile. Many students do not know who you are or what you do and since you are a crucial part of the administration, we think they should!

**A:** Thank you for asking me. My position does not naturally include a lot of student contact. However, I want students to know that I am available to assist them. Let me know if you have any further questions. My responses are included below.

**Q:** What is your background?

**A:** I am an undergraduate alumna of UST from too long ago to reveal. ;-) I have my MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management. Most of my professional career has been spent in higher education financial management at the University of Southern California. I worked for both the School of Fine Arts and the Rossier School of Education as the respective dean's senior business officer. In these jobs I worked closely with the dean, faculty and staff within each school.

After that I worked for a number of years in USC's Office of Budget and Planning as (ultimately) Associate Director. I was responsible with my colleagues for developing all aspects of the university's \$1.5 billion annual budget, as well as preparing capital budgets, directing the university's compensation function and coordinating institutional research efforts with a variety of offices around campus. In this position, I had the opportunity to work with the university's senior leadership, deans, senior staff within the schools and administrative departments as well as to prepare reporting for the Board of Trustees.

**Q:** Do you have other experiences working with/for law schools?

**A:** As you can tell from my answer

above, I have not worked for a law school in the past. However, in my position with the Office of Budget and Planning I had the opportunity to work with a number of the senior staff at USC's law school on a regular basis including the dean, vice dean and senior business officer. They have been helpful to me as law school colleagues already with my questions about the ABA and other matters.

**Q:** In what ways do you work with students?

**A:** At UST, my main student contact has been with the Law Student Assembly. Ryan Cari is coordinating the finances of the student government this year. He kindly invited me to speak to a number of the student leaders about financial issues affecting stu-

dent government. I am also available to discuss student work contracts, or other matters that may relate to finances. I am also responsible for preparing class schedules and exam schedules for the approval of the faculty and the deans.

**Q:** When did you arrive and what are some of the things you have worked on since then?

**A:** I arrived at UST on the same day Dean Mengler did - June 17, 2002. Since then I have been busy with a variety of tasks including: preparing some of the required reporting for the ABA site visit; working on the current year and next year budget; preparing the Spring 2003 class schedule and the Fall 2002 final exam schedule; arranging for the construction of additional office space in Jackson Hall; working on various aspects of the new building project; and a host of smaller tasks.

**Q:** Is this administrative position typical at law schools?

**A:** I think that most law schools have an administrative dean of some kind. There are many details to ensure the smooth func-

tioning of a law school which the faculty and academic deans should not have to worry about. I hope that as time goes by I can anticipate as many of those needs as possible and allow the faculty to focus on teaching and research.

**Q:** Why did you choose UST Law?

**A:** As an alumna, I was aware of the reopening of the law school and was intrigued by the powerful mission set forth. I felt that my skills and experience could contribute to making that mission a reality. Fortunately, my colleagues here at the law school felt the same way! I am just delighted to be here and look forward to helping the school flourish.



**Nora Byrne  
Fitzpatrick**  
Associate Dean  
of Administration



Molly Hamilton and Ted Stephany work together while building a house on Saturday, Oct. 26. The two 1L students were among a group of law students who participated in Habitat for Humanity. For more pictures, see page 6.

# Exploring the Mission

*Attorney Gail Chang Bohr Believes Everyone is Here to Make a Difference*

by Susan Beltz

The simple, yet compelling law school mission draws many students to the University of St. Thomas. This spiritual message also helped to uproot faculty and administration from their previous positions and to lead them to sunny Minnesota. But what exactly does the mission mean? Particularly, what will it mean to students who enter the legal profession. How will students incorporate the teachings about faith and morality from law school into their careers?

To explore the mission, several faculty members suggested interviewing professionals who have incorporated the mission into their lives and jobs. They signaled out several attorneys, including Gail Chang Bohr, executive director at the Children's Law Center and a mentor with the law school. Though Ms. Chang Bohr is not as familiar with the school's mission as students and faculty are, she gladly shared insights about herself and her career. However, she hesitated to impose her idea of the mission. She explained, "I am a Catholic, but my work is non-denominational. I think it is important that people don't just assume anyone else's belief's, but to integrate what is important for them."

The mission that Ms. Chang Bohr has integrated into her life came from a teacher and nun who wrote in her grade school yearbook:

"I will only pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."\*

Ms. Chang Bohr has carried this message with her and believes, "we are here to make a difference and do it through example." How she has made a difference is evident throughout her career, advocating for children in many different capacities.

Born in Jamaica, West Indies, Ms. Chang Bohr made her way to this country as a student. She received an undergraduate degree from Wellesley College before earning a masters in social work with a focus on children and families from Boston College. At the beginning of her career, she worked

at an outreach program at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. The program provided comprehensive health care for children prenatally through 21-years-old. Based on the idea that children have many needs, the program looked at both the physical and psychological well-being of children. Ms. Chang Bohr said, "This job was important in shaping the way I think about children. We can't slot them in categories we think they belong in. We have to look at what society can do to fulfill their needs."

After leaving Boston, Ms. Chang Bohr and her husband lived in Hong Kong where she worked in a hospital's pediatrics department and helped social work students understand the needs children. But it was at the University of California Davis where Ms. Chang Bohr's insights into children grew and where she began noticing how children needed a voice in their own decisions. She led the medical center's pediatric social work team that focused on understanding child abuse and teaching doctors to notice signs of abuse. She also was the main social worker in the pediatric oncology department helping children with life-threatening illness and worked with spinal cord and endocrinology pediatrics.

"I saw children with no legs in chronic situations, kids with diabetes having to medicate themselves and witnessed how children and families dealt with this. When you see kids in that situation, it makes you treasure life and respect how they make decisions about how they wanted to die. They had to make their own adjustments," Ms. Chang Bohr remembered.

"This taught me many important lessons in human spirit and how kids learn to protect themselves and their parents. It was a huge humbling experience to be part of child's life/death and to be a support to family. I was touched by the spirit and courage of the children." Ms. Chang Bohr continued, "I was privileged to be part of it and stayed in touch with many children and families over the years."

After leaving California and moving to the Midwest, Ms. Chang Bohr worked at Children's Home Society, which helped cre-

ate adoption plans for parents, either to place children or to give children up for adoption. "I always feel so privileged when people let me into the personal parts of their life." Again, Ms. Chang Bohr stayed in touch with some of the children and families.

It was at this time, in late 1980s, that Ms. Chang Bohr decided to go to law school. "It became clear to me, that no matter how much of an advocate you could be as a social worker, you needed to be an attorney to make change happen." She says her decision to go to law school was made without knowing any lawyers. "I was totally green. I didn't know anything about law school. I didn't even know schools were ranked. I just knew I had two children and needed to go to school part time."

She chose William Mitchell College of Law because it was geared for someone changing careers. "I really enjoyed studying law. It was intellectually challenging and I think I gained so much more from it because I did bring to it my practical experience."

At school, she focused on public interest law and wrote to get on law review. Again, Ms. Chang Bohr said she didn't know law review was important at the time. She joined because she knew others who were doing it. But it proved to be valuable experience as it allowed her to hone her writing and research skills. She also said the experience helped when she later clerked for a Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice. "On law review, we had to rewrite other people's work, and if stuff wasn't accurate, we had to go back and correct it. We also had to make sure citations were correct. I worked very hard and learned a lot about good writing. It was much needed experience for clerking."

The other valuable legal experience she gained was as an associate at Faegre & Benson. Like her other decisions at law school, Ms. Chang Bohr said she didn't know what was good career path to follow. She participated in on-campus interviews, received job offers from firms

*See Chang Bohr on page 7*

## Chang Bohr (Continued from page 5)

and just decided to take one of the offers. At the time, she didn't remember the bifurcation between big law firm jobs and public interest or government jobs.

She explained, "I had already done my public interest work. I knew what it was like to be on the front lines, so now I wanted to be immersed in the pure legal stuff. I'm glad to have that experience. Law firms do a lot of training. Plus, I knew it wasn't a long-term proposition. I knew I wasn't going to stay forever."

And, she was right. After three years with Faegre & Benson, the Children's Law Center position happened to come up and she took it. The Children's Law Center began operating in 1995, but Ms. Chang Bohr said the impetus for the nonprofit began in the late 1980s when advocates first began looking at how children were being treated in the Minnesota court system.

In 1993, a task force led by Judge Higgenbotham studied the unmet legal needs of children, especially children at risk. The committee recommended that lawyers get more involved with children and the group

secured government funding and proceeded. The original mission was to advance the rights of children in judicial, health, education and welfare systems and the Children's Law Center started representing children in the foster care program. Later, the leaders realized their mission was too broad, so the program was parred back to focus on children in foster care age 12 or older - court rules stated at this age children could take part in decisions regarding their own welfare.

Today, the Children's Law Center recruits and train lawyers for pro bono work, representing children whose parents have had their parental rights terminated, such as orphans or wards of the state. They also lobby for policy changes with the legislature. Ms. Chang Bohr says the Center helps in two ways.

"We take what we learn in the direct 'downstream' work of helping one child at-a-time and apply that to the 'up stream' work of trying to change the system. The policy and systematic reform works best bottom up versus top down, from people working in the trenches - here is what's wrong, let's fix it."

Her work at the Children's Law Center as an advocate for children leads Ms. Chang

Bohr full circle to her basic belief - that we are here to make a difference. But, she says, she reminds herself that she is representing what children want/wish for themselves, not what somebody else wants for them.

"It can be hard for advocates because they think somebody else knows best. Lots of people think they know best in this area. My goal is to give kids a voice in court. The judge makes the actual decision, we don't decide. We are bound by ethics to represent diligently, spend time with clients explaining what law is and weighing options. We have to step back and say, 'you've gone through all the options and laid out resources, now the child has to decide.' "

Ms. Chang Bohr admits it's not easy work. Families may be pulled apart; the child may be on a destructive path. But throughout her career as both a social worker and lawyer, Ms. Chang Bohr hasn't been deterred from her work of giving children a voice.

*\*Quote attributed to Stephen Grellet, 1773-1855, French-born Quaker Minister, by Bartlett's Familiar Quotations.*



**Left:** Law students take a break from working on a house for Habitat for Humanity. The group consisted of (left to right): Molly Hamilton, Ted Stephany, Sarah Kilibrada, Mary Szondy, Thea Porisch, Ronan Blaschko, Katherine Fries, Christian Ruud.

**Below:** Christian Ruud either working on the house or carving his name into the wall...we're not sure which.



Out and About

# Student Spotlight

## Bradley John Walz 2L

**Date of Birth:** 12-04-78

**Hometown:** Bloomington, MN

**Undergrad:** University of St. Thomas

**Major:** B.S. Economics

**Pets/Children/Significant other:**

Girlfriend.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Sports and the stock market.

**Favorite music artist:** Yoko On...oh wait, Tantric.

**Favorite book:** Problems in Contract Law? No, Welcome to my Trading Room.

**Latest film you saw:** "Sweet Home Alabama"

**What do you have for breakfast?:** Cereal and toast.

**Silver or Gold?:** Platinum.

**Can you touch your nose with your tongue?:** I wish.

**Who inspires you?:** President Jackson, lots of them.

**Best Memory:** Playing in the NCAA Hockey Tournament.

**Favorite sandwich filling:** Cheese.

**What color is your bathroom?:** I don't have my own, unfortunately I have to share.

**What characteristics do you despise?:** Have you met Justin Edwards?

**Dream job:** CEO of a fortune 500 company.

**Where would you retire?:** Vegas.

**Can you juggle?:** Yes.

**Favorite cartoon character:** Homer Simpson.

**Who would you hate to be left in a room with?:** Have you met Brian Flynn?

**Beach or city?:** Beach.

**Student Organizations:** MN Bar Law Students section rep.

## Kelley Marie Baker 1L

**Date of Birth:** 03-23-80

**Hometown:** Edina, MN

**Undergrad:** Tulane

**Majors:** Communications and Political Science

**Pets/Children/Significant other:** No, not yet.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Watching football, dancing, and hanging out.

**Favorite music artist:** Van Morrison.

**Favorite book:** Problems in Contract Law.

**Latest film you saw:** "The Ring"

**What do you have for breakfast?:** Granola bar and a Diet Coke.

**Silver or Gold?:** Silver.

**Can you touch your nose with your tongue?:** No.

**Who inspires you?:** My sisters.

**Best Memory:** Times before law school seem really good.

**Favorite sandwich filling:** Meatballs - Yum.

**What color is your bathroom?:** I don't really know, white I guess. Red towels.

**What characteristics do you despise?:** A person who is superficial.

**Dream job:** Karaoke MC - including special performances by me.

**Where would you retire?:** Anywhere on the water, with a house, a boat, and some pina colodas.

**Can you juggle?:** Absolutely not.

**Favorite cartoon character:** Piglet.

**Who would you hate to be left in a room with?:** Matthew McCaunahey - I'm not sure I'd be able to control myself.

**Beach or city?:** Beach.

**Student Organizations:** Sure, they're great.

Don't like what you see?  
Think you can do better?

**Prove it.**

Join the TommieLaw  
Newsletter staff. We are  
looking for writers with  
ideas that the student  
community needs to hear  
about!

Meetings are Tuesdays at  
noon in TMH 252