What *The Departed* Got Right About Boston

By Alison Farquhar, Staff Writer

Cambridge native Casey Affleck won Best Actor at this year’s Academy Awards for his role in *Manchester-by-the-Sea*, a film set in the namesake coastal town in northeastern Massachusetts. Massachusetts’ film legacy includes numerous critically-acclaimed films, including last year’s big Oscar winner *Spotlight*, 1990s favorite *Good Will Hunting*, and 2006 Best Picture winner, Martin Scorsese’s *The Departed*.

Based loosely on the life and times of Boston organized crime leader James “Whitey” Bulger, *The Departed* follows two Massachusetts State Police officers, corrupt Detective Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon), and undercover trooper William Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio), both simultaneously working, to different ends, for South Boston gangster Francis Costello (Jack Nicholson). The films features roles by Vera Farmiga, Anthony Anderson, Martin Sheen, Mark Wahlberg, and Alec Baldwin.

SULS students may not realize it, but our law school lent a notable filming location for *The Departed*, and it is even referenced in character dialogue in the film:

Madelyn Madden (Vera Farmiga): Are you a Statie?
Colin Sullivan: Yeah, I’m actually going to law school also.
Madden: Suffolk? Nights?
Sullivan: Well they don’t run Harvard at night last time I checked.

Madden: When was the last time you checked?
Sullivan: Before I went to fuckin’ Suffolk!

The 7th floor’s Corcoran Room lent the view from the CGI-generated apartment occupied by Sullivan in the film, with its panoramic view of the Massachusetts State House providing a thematic and self-referential backdrop to several scenes.

I loved *The Departed*, which feels cliché as a Massachusetts native and a Bostonian, but the acting, directing, and writing was overall superb. Its depiction of the houses and lesser-known buildings of Boston felt authentic as well, and provided a look at Boston beyond just the iconic sights of the town and the Irish-American non-rhotic stereotype that some other films sets in The Hub fail to move beyond.

For example, we see Costigan several times inside and on the top porch of his three-decker, Sullivan walks up the back entrance of the State Police building on Staniford Street and Merrimac, and later, Costigan meets Dignam (Mark Wahlberg) and Queenan (Martin Sheen) under the Neponset Bridge on the Dorchester side. A scene set in Costello’s condo on Boston Harbor provides a memorable and dark perspective on the scenic stretch near Boston Harbor Hotel, and later, a chase sequence through back-alleys of Chinatown highlights parts of the former crime-ridden so-called “Combat Zone”.

Additionally, and most notably, the film touches on the social consequences of recent events in Boston history, like the busing riots of the 1970s, the expulsion of the Italian-American mob from the North End (and its relocation to Providence, RI) of the 1980s, and the Catholic church pedophilia scandal of the 2000s. Issues of sexism, homophobia, racism, religion, and the immigrant search of the American dream are also raised. Anyone from eastern Massachusetts is likely to recognize and identify with the themes that come up in the film. *The Departed* genuinely captures Boston’s dark heart where other films set in The Hub do not, and is among the very best films about our town.
Trump vs. Freedom of the Press
Elizabeth Green, Opinion Columnist

On Friday, February 17, 2017, President Donald J. Trump criticized the national media by tweeting from his personal Twitter account, “The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCnews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American people!” He had previously posted and quickly deleted a similar tweet so he could be sure to add CBS and ABC. He didn’t delete it because he realized that perhaps a sitting president should not be attacking the press due to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, but because he wanted to make sure that those other news organizations were included. The original post also concluded, in typical Trump fashion, with one word: “SICK!”

Americans and the world are well aware that this is not unlike President Trump. Trump has been extremely active in the twitter-sphere for years and things haven’t changed since his inauguration, though I must admit I had hoped the Secret Service (or just anybody) would have taken his phone away from him after he was sworn in. I’m not sure about how you feel, dear reader, but it’s somewhat worrisome that the President of the United States is taking time out of what most would imagine is a rather busy workday to keep up an almost seamless stream of twitter commentary about how unfairly he and his administration are being treated since taking office.

This particular tweet came just one day after Trump held what could be considered a rather combative and lengthy press conference (over an hour.) Trump addressed topics such as his views on Russia, the first month of his administration, and of course—his views on the media. There is much to be considered concerning some of the things he said during this particular presser, but alas—the focus of this column is on Mr. Trump’s troublesome views about the press.

Something that Americans and we as law students know is that the First Amendment of the Constitution bars Congress from “abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press…” Not only that, but what Trump tweeted, declaring the media as “the enemy of the American people” is eerily similar to words used by some of the worst “baddies” in modern history—Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, and of course Adolf Hitler. While the term “enemy of the people” originated back in Roman times, its current form is Soviet-based terminology. A few months shy of a century ago, Vladimir Lenin coined the term “vrag naroda,” “enemy of the people,” one month after taking power of the Soviet Union on November 28, 1917. As leaders of the Soviet Union, Lenin and Stalin both used this term to justify the murder of millions of innocent lives.

This declaration also rings true to the term adopted by Nazis during Hitler’s time in power: Lügenpresse—lying press.” This was successfully implemented for their propaganda against the Jewish population, communists, and foreign press. I don’t want to come off as pompous by stating what I studied or what I have a degree in, but I feel like it’s warranted for this particular topic. Whilst studying for my Masters in history, it was drilled into me that to compare a modern-day person to Hitler or the Nazis was an easy out…it’s cheap, if that’s the right word. However, in this particular instance it’s hard to get around such a thing. The parallels (concerning the press at the least) are

slapping us right in the face like a dead, stinking fish and to be frank—I’m not alone in saying that it’s frightening.

I don’t bring up these men to be overly dramatic, but to simply draw attention to how positively dangerous it is for the President of the United States to be so quick to make such a declaration. I get it—he’s not a politician, he’s not well-spoken as most of his base will continually say when any hint of skepticism of the president is suspected. However, I don’t accept that as an excuse for this. I don’t believe I ever accepted that as an excuse for the majority of what has come out of this man’s mouth, to be honest.

I’m uncertain what the future of this administration will be, especially with the continuing leaks being made concerning Russia. Trump’s ongoing battle with the press does not bode well with me and many other Americans, but if I let all of the worries I have fill my mind I will go absolutely crazy. So to take things one at a time, with this one being the freedom of the press, I’ll look to the words of some of America’s most prominent historical figures for comfort. Thomas Jefferson, one of the U.S. Founding Fathers once said: “Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without losing.” John Adams wrote “the liberty of the press is essential to the security of the state.” I’ll finish this article with something George Washington once stated: “Freedom of speech is a principal pillar of a free government: when this support is taken away, the constitution of a free society is dissolved.”

“Staying Woke” cont. from page 2.

Mr. King does a great job pointing out that one of the primary reasons it feels as if we are still living in the 60s is because, contrary to popular belief, humanity has not gotten better with time. Such is especially true when in 2017 black people are still being incarcerated at a higher percentage than their white counterparts for the same crimes; when in 2017 black people are still cut off from the many opportunities that their white counterparts have access to; when in 2017 black people are still targeted by police and find themselves victims of police brutality; when in 2017 we can elect a man who has vocally and visually exhibited misogynistic views to the highest office in the land. Sitting here to type out everything that’s still wrong with America in 2017 is equal to reading an American history book.

Considering all this, in celebrating black history we are not just celebrating black people and their accomplishments, we are celebrating the breakthroughs of our society. Celebrating black history serves as a constant reminder of where our society and our country were and where we should hope to steer further away from. With consistent forms of oppression in modern day America, it is now more important than ever to be reminded of America’s troubled but not soon forgotten past; especially when it comes to issues relating to human rights. Shaun King’s presentation drove home a point that, hopefully, everyone in the audience received with open minds and hearts: for true change to happen, real action must first occur. Real action goes beyond electing senators and representatives to congress and presidency; real action begins here, at our schools, in our homes, within our communities. Humanity has not changed since the beginning of time. Humanity has fluctuated, had its highs and lows, but to answer the pressing question posed above, it has not significantly changed, at least not in a way that’s meaningful. It’s not the 60s even though it might feel that way. Fact is we’ve never left the 60s behind—never evolved from that oppressive nature.

E lecting Donald Trump to the highest office in this country was not a mistake, nor was the country taken back 50 years. Mr. Trump cleverly reawakened the inner humanity of America’s conscience, so it can be no surprise that he won. As Shaun King pointed out, with each new innovation, there is a drop in humanity. The signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Civil War, the Women Rights Movement, the Election of President Obama were all new innovations that marked the beginning of a downward spiral in humanity.

In order to halt this downward spiral in humanity, one can engage in celebration by way of acknowledging the past. Celebrate black history and any other kind of history that documents and illustrates the disregarded values of America that led to the nationwide changes we see today. Together we can effectively encourage people to stay woke, inspired, and consciously advocate for the oppressed. Being that this is law school and we are all training to be advocates, let us take the time to understand what being an advocate in today’s society means. Reality is not black and white, neither is justice, and neither is right and wrong. So come to terms with the fact that humanity has only fluctuated and never reached the mythical preferable peak where it is significantly better than past generations. Then get involved and help clean up. Once again, if better days are to come, real action must take place.

Sources: http://www.naacp.org/criminal-justice-fact-sheet/

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Entrepreneur and Founder of Restoring a Woman’s Reverence
www.MyRAWR.org
Annual Diversity Dinner
“Around the World” Buffet

Wednesday, March 1 at 6PM - Fifth Floor Commons

Come celebrate diversity and inclusion at Suffolk Law with a very special and delicious “Around the World” buffet sponsored by:

The SBA Diversity Committee, several student affinity groups and the Dean of Students Office.

Some insightful remarks will be given by our very own

Judge Isaac Borenstein

By Liza Rosenof, Legal Research Librarian

Wedged inconspicuously in an alley between Stoddard’s Fine Food & Ale and the snazzy new restaurant, Yvonne’s—a mere stone’s throw away from Suffolk Law—lies the headquarters of a venerable local institution you may not have heard of: MCLE New England. This non-profit organization, established in 1969, has dedicated itself to providing Massachusetts attorneys with training for their continued professional growth. Governed by a board of trustees and assisted by curriculum advisory committees addressing nine distinct areas of legal practice, MCLE focuses its mission on applied law, meaning “practical, highly concrete training for attorneys in the essential elements of professional practice.”

Its more than 160 practice manuals, written by experienced practitioners with expertise in the relevant field, adorn the desks and bookshelves of law offices across the region. Perhaps even more importantly, MCLE regularly offers programming in-person and online—around 250 such sessions annually—with upcoming programs including “A Kaleidoscopic Perspective on the Impact of Divorce,” “Title Insurance for Commercial Transactions,” and “Hanging Your Shingle.” Attendance at these programs usually costs between $150 and $300. While these are great prices for what they offer, it’s not exactly chump change for most students and newly minted attorneys. But do not despair; Suffolk Law students now have unprecedented access to MCLE’s various offerings.

The Law Library already had access to MCLE’s vast collection of practice guides online through Westlaw, Lexis Advance, and Bloomberg Law, in addition to about 100 publications in print on reserve. Recently, though, the Law Library negotiated with MCLE to provide access to a veritable treasure trove of materials through its OnlinePass, including: all live MCLE webcasts (over 200 a year); unlimited online access to the entire archive of MCLE on-demand webcasts and downloadable mp3 audio programs (over 500); unlimited access to MCLE’s entire collection of practice manuals both in a searchable online library or as individual downloadable eBooks; and, curated professional development plans that take you unit by unit through the fundamentals of a particular practice area.

Rick Buckingham, Director of the Law Library and Information Resources at Suffolk, said, “We are very excited that our students now have access to this expanded suite of MCLE resources, which we know attorneys throughout New England value highly and use regularly. These resources can help students develop the practice-ready skills that are crucial for new attorneys.”

To access the MCLE OnlinePass, simply head to the Law Library website at www.suffolk.edu/law/library. From there, click “Research Databases” on the lower left-hand side of the screen. Choose “MCLE OnlinePass” from the list of links. You can access the full subscription at school and off-campus. Suffolk Law alumni are welcome to access the OnlinePass when they visit the Law Library.

If you have any questions, contact the Reference Desk at lawref@suffolk.edu or 617-573-8516.

Once a man has made a commitment to a way of life, He puts the greatest strength in the world behind him. It’s something we call heart power. Once a man has made this commitment, nothing will stop him short of success. -Vince Lombardi
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A school newspaper of the people, by the people, and for the people. Dicta is your source for news, stories and opinions of immediate concern to the Suffolk Law student body. The content we provide is a reflection of the community involvement we all crave but don’t have the time to enjoy. So speak up by reading and contributing to Dicta!

Dicta is the official student newspaper of the Suffolk Law School community, existing solely to help foster a sense of community through communication. The goal of Dicta is to educate, inform, enlighten, and entertain the student body through outstanding reporting and editorials on news, events, trends, sports, arts, food, and popular culture. The opinions and views expressed in Dicta are not necessarily those of the Dicta staff and are not the opinions of Suffolk University Law School or the student body. Suffolk Law School students control and conduct all facets of this paper. Dicta does not discriminate against any persons and complies with the university policies concerning equality. Dicta encourages students, alumni, faculty, and administrators to submit letters to the editor and articles for publication. Submissions should include the author’s name, class and/or position at the university or in the community. Dicta reserves the right to edit and publish all submissions. Anonymous submissions will not be published.

Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory. --Theodor Seuss Geisel

Hardship often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.
--C.S. Lewis
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY ALERT: COMMUNITY ADVISORY

By Desiree Tembo, Staff Writer

“The Boston Police are investigating stabbings at Tremont Street and Stuart St. Please stay away from the area.” –09/25/16

“The Citizens Bank on the first floor of 73 Tremont St has just been robbed. Please avoid police presence in front of the building. Party fled the area.” –10/06/16

“At about 7:00p.m. two Suffolk University students were accosted by two individuals at the corner of West Street and Mason Street. One of the individuals stated that he had a gun and proceeded to rob one of the students. The individual did not show a gun. The two individuals fled away from West Street on Mason Street. SUPD and Boston PD were unable to locate the individuals.”—11/15/16.

Most of us have seen these types of safety alerts from the University regarding incidents that have occurred near campus. They serve as a warning to us, of the multiple crimes that take place right outside our law school’s doors. Recently, we have heard accounts from students regarding incidents of which they have been victim to enroute to or from the law school.

In the coming weeks, Dicta will be reaching out to the student body to assess your personal sense of safety near or on school property in an effort to determine what, if anything, can be done to increase our overall sense of safety.

Suffolk University police officers wear dark blue shirts, have a Suffolk University Police badge, and wear the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on their collar. They carry a baton and pepper spray. Suffolk University security officers wear light blue shirts and have a Suffolk University Security badge. They do not carry weapons or pepper spray.

-Courtesy of Suffolk University Police Website

We understand it can be very difficult for a person who is a victim, observes, or has knowledge of a criminal act to report it to the authorities. However, in the event of an emergency situation we ask that you immediately contact the SUPD by calling 617-573-8111 or you may also call 911 to reach the Boston Police Department. If it is a non-emergency safety related matter, you can report it to the SUPD by calling 617-573-8333.

We can work towards a safer Suffolk community with everyone’s cooperation.

If you do not feel safe walking alone, you may contact the Suffolk University Police Department’s escort service. They will walk with you to and from any Suffolk University building, as well as the entrance of the Park Street T Station, Charles River Parking Garage, Sanford Parking Garage, Center Plaza Parking Garage, and the Government Center T Station. You may request this service through the LiveSafe App (download from the App Store or Google Play) or you may call SUPD in advance at (617) 573-8333 and a uniformed officer will meet you at your location.

Suffolk University Police (SUPD) and Security staff consists of:

- 30 full-time security officers
- 5 full-time non-sworn dispatchers
- manager of campus card services
- systems administrator
- office coordinator
- student security workers

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BOSTON GLOBE

Firefighters sprayed blood off the sidewalk after Sunday’s early morning stabbing on Tremont Street in the Theater District. Seven people were wounded, police say.
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“Wisdom is knowing we are all One. Love is what it feels like and compassion is what it acts like”. –Ethan Walker III

How To Function In Spite Of Yourself
By Ashley Malans, Head Copy Editor

It's not really a rare occurrence that any given semester is difficult for a lot of students. I find myself in the midst of one of the most difficult years on record, and I've found it incredibly hard to keep my work separate from my personal life. I'm not going to lie, I've let myself drop the ball at times. So, I'm sure you're thinking, how are you going to tell us how to do better when you have clearly not been doing better? Good question. I don't have an answer for that yet, but I will try.

I think as lawyers we are often encouraged by a culture of overwork: that unless we are sleepless and caffeine-fueled and smoking 4 packs a day to cope—we aren't doing our jobs right. I think I have struggled with this the most this semester, this guilt that I am not doing everything for my clients, even though I'm doing the best to my ability given my physical and mental health this year.

What I think I've learned is that you have to learn your own limits. You have to know yourself well enough to not take on what you cannot finish. You have to admit to yourself that you need help. You have to seek that help, be it from colleagues or elsewhere. You have to be upfront with your clients about what you can do and step back when it becomes necessary. You have to power through as best you can.

You're not always going to be your best, but you can try. I think that's all anyone can ask of you. I am reminded of Maryland attorney, M. Cristina Gutierrez (who many of you know as Adnan Syed’s first lawyer from the Serial fame), who was disbarred, in part, as a result of putting work before her failing health and mismanaging cases. You fail your client when you fail yourself.

So how do you function in spite of yourself? You get out of bed. You talk to people. You do what you need to do, not out of desire or duty but out of necessity. You try your best to take care of yourself, even when every ounce of your being says, "I can't." You find your support both at home and at work. Our work is not done completely alone, nor should it be. You don't have to martyr yourself for every case, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try your hardest. You talk to a counselor to try and figure out a plan to get through.

People's lives do depend on us, and as lawyers, we should not take that lightly. I am not saying, "Be lazy! It's all pointless, so just wing it and hope for the best!" I am saying that sometimes you have to fight, and sometimes you have to walk away when the burden is too great. I don't know about you, but I've got a little more fight left in me.
Update on DAPL

By: Rachel Seed, Staff Writer

What’s been done?

Months and countless protests have passed, but DAPL is still making news, which for a law student and particularly anyone interested in Federal Indian Law, has been history in the making.

Last year, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe sued the United States Army Corps of Engineers to block the approval and construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). DAPL is a $3.7 billion project which would carry 470,000 barrels of oil daily from North Dakota to Illinois. Both the company behind the pipeline, Energy Transfer, and President Trump, insist that the pipeline will boost local economies and create thousands of jobs.

However, the Sioux Nation views the pipeline, or the “black snake,” as they refer to it, as an “encroachment onto their national heritage,” as well as a threat to their main water source. Though the pipeline runs half a mile outside of the reservation, the Tribe emphasizes that it would destroy sites of historical and cultural significance.

As a result, the Sioux Nation filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction back in September of last year. The Complaint articulated that DAPL would threaten their “environmental and economic wellbeing, as well their cultural resources.”

Normally, domestic oil pipelines do not require general approval from the federal government, and DAPAL was no exception (because 99% of its route is beneath private land).

However, construction activates in federally regulated waters, as is the case here, need to be allowed under a permit. DAPL activities were permitted under Nationwide Permit 12, but the Sioux Nation alleges that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers violated multiple federal statutes including the National environmental Policy Act; the Clean Water Act, and the National Historical Preservation Act, in doing so.

Judge James Boasberg, who has been the presiding judge over this case, denied the injunction on the grounds that the Tribe failed to meet its burden to demonstrate that the court could “prevent damage to their cultural resources by enjoining the DAPL-related permitting.”

By mid-November, the Department of Justice, Department of the Interior and Department of the Army said DAPL would not be authorized until it was determined whether reconsideration was needed over previous decisions regarding the Lake Oahe site (part of the Missouri River System) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable statutes. As of early December the project had been halted, much to the Tribes’ and protestor’s relief.

What Now?

On January 24th of this year, President Trump signed a memo calling for the expedited review and approval of the construction and operation of DAPL, including the grant of a final easement. He also approved permits under the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act. President Trump expressed his belief that “[t]he construction and operation of [a] lawfully permitted pipeline infrastructure serve[s] the national interest.”

At this time, the pipe only needs to cross beneath Lake Oahe, to connect a final 1,100-foot gap in the 1.170-mile pipeline.

Just this past week, Judge Boasberg denied a request by the Sioux and other tribes, seeking a temporary restraining order to halt construction of the final link in the pipeline. They argue that “tribal officials hadn’t been properly consulted and that cultural sites were in immediate peril.”

Another hearing is scheduled for Feb. 27, as the Tribes seek another injunction ordering the Army Corps to withdraw the easement.

Moving Forward

Just how safe are pipelines?

The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration as well as most pipeline companies maintain their safety records, stating that “it is far safer to move oil and natural gas in an underground pipe than in rail cars or trucks, which can crash and create huge fires.

However, in 2013 a Tesoro Logistics pipeline in North Dakota broke and spilled 865,000 gallons of oil, while in 2010, an Enbridge Energy pipeline spilled more than 843,000 gallons into the Kalamazoo River, resulting in a cleanup that lasted years and cost more than a billion dollars. Furthermore, a 2012 examination of pipeline safety reported that more than half of the country’s pipelines were at least 50 years old.

Regardless, it would seem that this administration’s policy on transporting oil...
is a “pick your poison” type scenario in regards to environmental and human risks. “A pipeline is the cheapest and quickest method of doing the job.

What can you do to help?

**Sign a Petition**
https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-dakota-access-pipeline

**Send supplies**
http://sacredstonecamp.org/supply-list/
http://sacredstonecamp.org/faq/#camping
https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/196PVIWRDX1M4?tag=thehuffingtontop-20

**Donate to Protestors’ Legal Defense Fund**
https://fundrazr.com/d19fAf

**Call**
The White House, at 202-456-1111.
Energy Transfer Partners, the pipeline owner — Lee Hanse, executive vice president, 210-403-6455;
Glenn Emery, vice president, 210-403-6762; Michael (Cliff) Waters, lead analyst, 713-989-2404.
Army Corps of Engineers, which issued the permit allowing construction of the pipeline, even though it would cross under the Missouri River within a half-mile of the Sioux reservation boundary, at 202-761-5903
sidebar /ˈsɪdˌbɑːr/ (noun):
1. discussion between the judge and attorneys at the bench off the record and outside the hearing of the jurors

2. local Boston bar in Downtown Crossing offering draft beer for $2, pitchers for $7, and half price pizza Monday nights

3. popular location for Suffolk Law School students to relax between classes and host group events.
Boston Youth Activists Demand Increased Job Funding and Juvenile Criminal Justice Reform

(Photo Credit: David Feldman)

Letter to the Editor

To The Editor,

I am very pleased to learn that Dicta is being revived, and wish you every success in publishing articles and information of interest to the Law School community. There are always issues arising that affect our students' experience here that deserve to be aired by the press. If your reporters ask around you will find them, and I hope your articles will provide useful information to the student body, faculty, and administration. Such issues may be about the curriculum, about clinical and pro bono activities, journals and moot court activities, about faculty and student activities, about academic regulations, alumni activities and many other issues.

Dicta can also be a forum for opinions on matters of interest to the Law School community and the wider world as well. Faculty can also contribute articles about initiatives under consideration, their own work, and other matters. You should not be shy about approaching faculty members to help as well in reviving this important source for news and constructive community discussion.

“Bon chance.” I look forward to reading Dicta again. Professor, Joe Glannon

A Word From The President

Daniel Hahn, Suffolk University Law School Student Bar Association (SBA) President

-Surviving the hardest part of the year-

I was thinking about what to write—what topic I could go into that might be helpful from a 3L perspective—but there has just been so much else to worry about that it has been hard to find the time. Clinic on one hand, the SBA on the other, work, classes, and all that balanced with whatever kind of life, if any, I’m trying to have outside of school; it’s a lot. Of course, I don’t have to tell any of you that. We’ve got our folks on Journal out here. We’ve got our avid club members. We’ve got people applying to FYSIP, looking for summer internships, and getting ready for the next trial competition; if there’s ever been a community that I don’t have to explain being busy to, that community is Suffolk Law. That is exactly what I want to talk about: being busy. Being busy during the hardest time of the year, to be specific, and I really do think these next few weeks leading up to Spring Break are the hardest time of the academic year.
Consider this with me: it’s far enough into classes that grades are going to start to matter. We can’t be getting behind on reading. Can’t be falling behind on those weekly quizzes (if you’re in the unfortunate collection of folks who have those), and we have to start thinking about getting started on those outlines for our finals. We’re in the thick of it, but neither are we close to the end. We are looking for summer jobs and internships but far enough away where we won’t be hearing back for a few weeks. This is the period of just far enough to worry but not far enough to have any resolutions. Now, sure finals are tough, but I’ll take a week of preparation—followed-up-with-a-test over a few-weeks-of-wondering-if-I-need-to-start-looking-for-a-new-apartment-because-my-landlord-might-decide-to-raise-next-year’s-rent, any day.

This is the toughest part of the year because now is when the work is due. Now is when we need to get focused and balance out our lives, but it won’t be until much later when any of that pays off. It’s easy to let all this stress get to us. It’s easy to start to fray a bit at the edges and find it harder and harder to get up out of bed and get to class, or to our morning job, or onto the T, or what have you. But let me tell you, from a 3L getting ready to graduate who is just as busy as you and who understands completely: it gets better.

I want to stress here that I’m saying better, not easier. The work doesn’t really stop coming. It doesn’t get any more pleasant waking up, chugging coffee, and getting out the door (feel free to insert whatever order of morning ritual plus transit applies to you). But it does get better.

There’s something about being in this community as the year wears on that first feels exhausting but then it gets comfortable. It becomes a routine. Trust me when I say teachers feel it too, administration feels it too, and it’s like this bubble that builds and builds and right around now it bursts and it feels like we’re all the most stressed we’ve ever been, and we’re all alone in being the most stressed we’ve ever been, and we just need a break now and can’t go on but we do.

I saw it 1L year. I saw it 2L year. And I feel it now in 3L year. Law school is hard. Law school is a major strain on us not only academically but socially and mentally. But every year around this time, just when it feels like it’s as hard as it will get and those thoughts start churning of “maybe this wasn’t for me,” we break through and we just keep going.

One of my good friends in 1L year—and during this time when we were all feeling the Stress (the stress, as in proper noun, capital ‘s’, kick your ass kind of stress)—had made a comment that really stuck with me about dealing with the stress: we’re not made of glass. I think about that a lot when deadlines start piling up and responsibilities start to feel impossible to manage. We can bend and adjust without breaking, we aren’t glass, and just because we have these hard moments doesn’t mean we aren’t cut out for this experience.

This is the hardest time of the year. Too late to push anything off and too soon to expect any results; but it doesn’t last forever. Each year, in my experience, this mid-spring semester season of stress comes on hard. But without fail, each year it has also evaporated as quickly as it has come. There’s something about being in a community where every member is straining as hard as they can that can actually make the strain seem not so bad after all.

So, while I certainly can’t do anything for your workload, nor can I tell anyone if their summer job will pan out, I can say: things will get better, and I hope that is at least a little bit of help.

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Black History Month

**Across**
4. First African American to win an Oscar.
5. Entrepreneur who changed her name from Sarah Breedlove.
8. Established in 1865 to help former black slaves in the aftermath of the Civil War.
10. Suffolk Law’s first African American graduate.
11. Civil rights leader who refused to give up her seat on the bus.

**Down**
1. First African American U.S. Supreme Court Justice.
2. The first black teenagers to attend an all white high school in Arkansas.
3. I wrote the national black anthem, who am I?
5. First black lawyer admitted to practice before the Court.
7. Known as the father of black history.
9. First black lawyer to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court.
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WHEN: Monday, March 20, 2017; 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: 1st Floor Function Room
HOSTED BY: Suffolk University Law Library

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VENDORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT!
Dear students, staff, faculty, colleagues, and administrators:

We are pleased to share that Dicta is expanding rapidly in terms of student/faculty interest, newspaper content variety, staff writers, board members, and media outreach (online website/print editions, twitter @SuffolkDicta, Facebook etc.). In fact, Dicta’s February Edition will be available on Tuesday, February 28th on our new, mobile-friendly, website: www.TheSuffolkLawPaper.com

Furthermore, Dicta is proud to announce that we are going back to print in April. At its core, the 2016-2017 academic year has been largely about restoring Dicta to its former glory by way of encouraging student and faculty involvement, as well as joining arms with various organizations surrounding Suffolk Law School.

Dicta was established more than 40 years ago by law students, was the winner of several awards, and enjoyed a tremendous degree of prestige. However, over the years, Dicta’s vision was forgotten. To that end, we are in the process of reaffirming our vision, presence, and purpose this academic year.

With a newfound interest, constitution, energetic staff, and proactive approach, it is our ultimate goal to ensure its place for generations to come. Our goal here is to reach beyond Suffolk Law’s walls. Rather than simply making a comeback, Dicta is aiming to roar back, exhibiting fresh qualities of resilience and vigor.

Reviving Suffolk Law School’s only newspaper means that we need, students alumni, faculty, and administrators to submit letters to the editor and articles for publication. Dicta is happy to print, or post on our website, all in-house announcements or advertisements for Suffolk clubs, organizations, and law-school related events.

With that in mind, we invite you all to check out our website: www.TheSuffolkLawPaper.com check out our online edition on February 28th, be on the lookout for our printed edition in April and consider contributing to Dicta to bolster the sense of community a small law school needs to thrive. Once you have viewed it, we ask that you share with your friends, family, and colleagues—near or far, wherever they are, and ask them to further share for it takes a village to reach our ultimate goals of restoration.

Yours truly,
The Publishing Board of Dicta