Suffolk University Law Dean's Alumni Newsletter, Spring 2005

Suffolk University

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.suffolk.edu/ad-news

Recommended Citation

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Suffolk University Publications at Digital Collections @ Suffolk. It has been accepted for inclusion in Advancement and Alumni Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Suffolk. For more information, please contact dct@suffolk.edu.
On September 19, 1906, Archer's Evening Law School opened in Roxbury, Massachusetts, in the apartment of a young attorney named Gleason Archer. At the time, Theodore Roosevelt was president of the 45 United States, the mayor of Boston was John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald (father of Rose and grandfather of John Fitzgerald Kennedy), and Babe Ruth hadn't yet joined the Red Sox.

By 1907, Archer moved the school to Boston and renamed it Suffolk Law School. All students were working men—at the time, they were all men—who studied part-time to gain entry to a profession previously closed to them because of discrimination and economic need. There were no day classes until 1924, and until 1943, there were no full-time students.

As we approach the celebration of Suffolk University's centennial in September 2006, we reflect on ways the Law School has evolved since its founding. The student experience at Suffolk has changed dramatically, not just since 1906, but even since many of our alumni were here. In this letter, I will highlight the experience of today's students and tell you about new developments at the Law School.

**ADMISSION**

In 1924, Archer shocked many when he advertised his school with a large, electric sign proclaiming "Suffolk Law School" on the roof of the Beacon Hill classroom building.

Until 1910, there were no entrance requirements at Suffolk Law School. Anyone who lacked a high school education (required to take the Massachusetts bar examination) could obtain it by attending Suffolk's Summer Preparatory Department during the summers of his law school career. Some students therefore earned both a law degree and a high school diploma.

Today, the recruitment and admissions processes are quite a bit more complex and sophisticated. As a prospective student, you might learn about Suffolk from surfing the Internet and visiting our Web site, or meeting our dean of admissions, admissions staff, and alumni recruiters at more than 150 annual recruiting events in Boston and throughout the country. Admissions materials are electronic—an interactive, multimedia CD-ROM has replaced the traditional glossy catalogue. You would likely apply online.

As an applicant, you would be one of 3,200 prospective students from all 50 states, 46 foreign countries, and 594 undergraduate schools. Yet you still would have several opportunities to
One important aspect of your education has not changed, and that is the school's approach to integrating the theoretical and the practical.

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Speak directly with current students, recent alumni, admissions personnel, and other prospective students. The admissions office takes full advantage of open houses at the school, email, chat rooms, telephone calls, and mailings to maintain close contact with applicants. The Law School staff also sponsors a housing weekend to assist out-of-state students (47 percent of all 2004 applicants hailed from outside Massachusetts) in finding roommates and apartments.

ACADEMICS

Today's first-year students follow a required curriculum, with course names similar to those of the last several decades: Contracts, Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Torts, and Property. Students also take Legal Practice Skills (LPS) to develop their research, analysis, as well as oral and written communication skills.

Some first-year classes feature smaller sections. Standard sections (four in the day and two in the evening) have about 90 students each, but you would have only 45 classmates in your criminal law and constitutional law courses and 18 classmates in your LPS course.

The most dramatic change in your academic experience would be the amazingly rich array of upper level elective courses available to you. Students have fewer required courses after their first year and have opportunities to specialize in ways not possible in the past. For example, during the 1980-1981 academic year, the Law School offered a total of 92 elective courses; in 2004-2005 that has increased to 174. For fun, you might visit our Web site and browse our course offerings at www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/jd/electives.cfm.

We have developed exciting offerings in our five areas of academic concentration, allowing students to graduate with a certification of specialization in civil litigation, health and biomedical law, financial services, intellectual property, and international law.

One important aspect of your education has not changed, and that is the school's approach to integrating the theoretical and the practical. We are committed to training highly skilled, ethically-sensitive, and service-oriented lawyers. This mission pervades the curriculum but is most evident in the Law School's clinical programs. You would find a much broader array of practice opportunities in the clinics than ever before: Battered Women's Advocacy Clinic; Civil and Judicial Internship Program; Disability Advocacy Clinic; Family Advocacy Clinic; Housing and Consumer Protection Clinic; Juvenile Justice Center; Evening Landlord Tenant Clinic; Suffolk Defenders; and Suffolk Prosecutors.

In addition, our location and our close connections to the Boston legal community provide unparalleled opportunities for civil and criminal internships.

CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY

The Law School's technological enhancements are continuously recognized, and Suffolk was recently ranked fifth in the country by PreLaw magazine for using technology in and out of the classroom. This magazine is one of the few publications sent exclusively to all pre-law advisors at more than 330 nationwide universities.
CENTENNIAL

The internationalization of legal education and the increasing importance of faculty scholarship are just two of many developments that we will be celebrating during the upcoming Centennial. This all began quite modestly in September 1906, when Gleason Archer started teaching young men about the law in his living room in Roxbury, Massachusetts. It was called Archer's Evening Law School. One year later, he moved the school to Boston and founded Suffolk Law School.

The official ceremony launching the yearlong celebration will be a Centennial Convocation and Birthday Celebration on Boston Common on Thursday, September 21, 2006. International dignitaries, political and business leaders, University leadership and officials from New England colleges and universities, all in full academic regalia, will form a procession from Suffolk to the Common, where honorary degrees will be awarded to celebrated guests. The Birthday Celebration will follow, bringing together old friends and new for a day of fun.

The Law School also will be hosting many exciting events and exhibits throughout the Centennial year. The illustrious group of Centennial Speakers during 2006-2007 is highlighted by US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, FBI Director Robert Mueller, Distinguished Visiting Professor Akhil Reed Amar of Yale Law School (fall semester) and Distinguished Visiting Professor Martha Chamallas of Ohio State University Law School (spring semester).

We hope you will join us at these events. For further information about the Centennial plans for the Law School and the University, please visit www.suffolk.edu/centennial or call Associate Dean John Deliso at 617.573.8157.

CENTENNIAL NOMINATIONS

As part of the Centennial Celebrations at Suffolk, The Law School Centennial Committee is looking for graduates who, through their work in the law and the community, exemplify the mission of Suffolk Law. We ask for your help in identifying individuals from any point in our history so that we may honor them throughout the course of Suffolk’s Centennial Celebration.

We are interested in a broad view of contributions and service, so please feel free to identify Suffolk University’s "unsung heroes" as well as high-profile individuals. To nominate those whom you believe have contributed to the quality of Suffolk Law School, visit www.law.suffolk.edu/centennial/nominations.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Prior to the Centennial celebration, we will have some great alumni events this summer, especially if you are a baseball fan. We have two opportunities to see the
Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park: on July 17, join us as the Boston Red Sox take on the Kansas City Royals; on August 16, catch the Red Sox playing the Detroit Tigers. Due to the popularity of the games, we will be distributing tickets via a lottery system. For those other Sox, on July 23 join the Chicago Alumni Chapter as the White Sox take on the Texas Rangers in Chicago, Illinois.

Fans of minor league ball can also enjoy a game with fellow alumni. The New Hampshire Alumni Chapter invites you to watch the New Hampshire Fisher Cats play the Trenton Thunder on July 23. On July 30, join the Rhode Island Alumni Chapter as the Pawtucket Red Sox take on the Buffalo Bisons. In Lowell, you can watch the Lowell Spinners challenge the Tri-City Valley Cats on August 20.

If you enjoy the finer things in life, consider joining the Rhode Island Chapter for a wine tasting and reception at the Newport Winery in Middletown, Rhode Island on June 25. On July 15, the Boston Alumni Chapter invites you to enjoy a sunset schooner sail in Salem, Massachusetts. Later in the summer, the Boston Alumni Chapter will be hosting an afternoon at Tanglewood with a post-concert reception on August 13. Looking ahead to the fall, if you live in the Washington DC area, you might be interested in attending a Suffolk Law faculty panel discussion hosted by the Washington DC Alumni Chapter on October 18.

ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER HONORS DAVID J. SARGENT

Please make a special point to hold the date of November 16, 2006 on your calendar. The Alumni Association will hold its Annual Alumni Awards Dinner that evening, and the honoree will be David J. Sargent. It will be a wonderful opportunity to congratulate and thank him for his lifetime of service to the Law School and the University, as professor of law, dean, and now president of Suffolk University.

I hope you have a relaxing and refreshing summer, and I look forward to seeing you at these alumni events and Centennial programs.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Smith
Dean and Professor of Law