

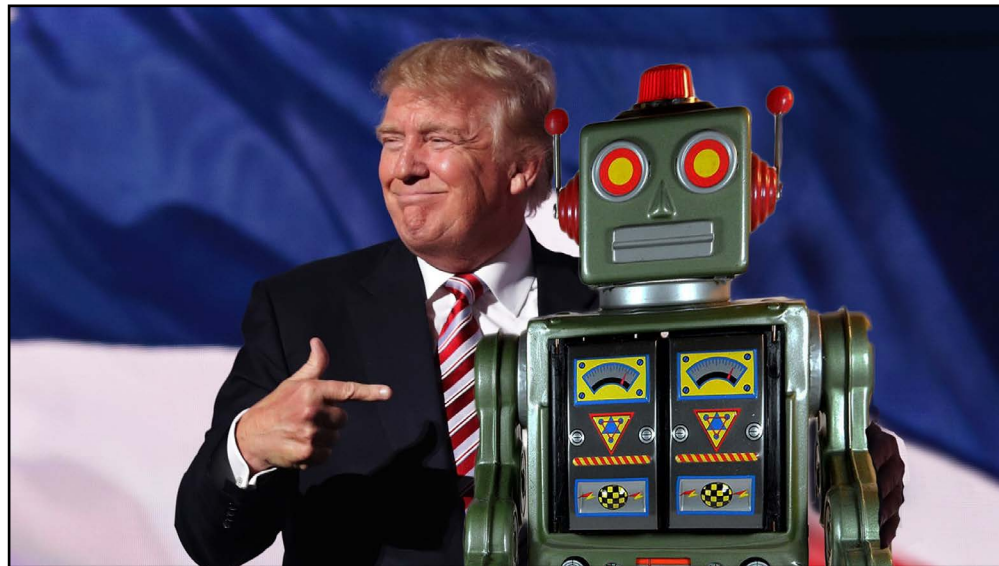


## SHEBOT OUTSMARTS THE WHITE HOUSE

By Elena Applebaum  
Senior Editor

This morning, President Trump's suspicions against our former leader were validated, when he faced a coordinated attack on the White House. Obama's spies are suspected to have infiltrated various positions in the Trump administration, and within the family! The government has issued a state of emergency.

At about 8:00 a.m. on April 1st, White House microwaves, televisions, and landline phones burst into flames simultaneously. While Secret Service agents were distracted by the commotion, President Trump was swiftly barricaded in the Oval Office by the person he trusted the most, his wife Melania. Once locked inside, she proclaimed that she was not Melania, but a specialized drone operated by MI007 (a British intelligence service). At this point, the bot revealed a metal body



President Donald J. Trump posing with First Lady (and secret robot) Melania Trump

in the shape of a woman, and threatened the President with firearms built into and protruding from her body. President Trump was helpless, held at gunpoint, wondering where his dear Melania could be!

During this time, the shebot managed to download files off the President's classified phone and computer, and email them to her operator. She then appeared to shut her system down, and collapse, allowing the Secret

Service to rush in and rescue the President.

After the attack, investigators found recording devices near the ashes, confirming a vast network of bugs in the White House. The CIA issued a press release stating that they have not yet located the real Melania, and the shebot is being detained in a safe location. So far hackers have linked the bot to the IP addresses of several British officials, but have not been able to get any useful data off her.

Obama has escaped the country and is being protected by the British government. In an unforeseen act of treason, the FBI have gone with him and taken our nuclear codes. The CIA have remained loyal to Trump amidst the destabilizing intelligence split. It is still uncertain exactly what the Obama faction has planned, and no one in his entourage will comment.

## RESTROOMS RANKED: BANNAN HALL

By Sofia Arellano  
Staff Writer

As law students, we are constantly bombarded by others. The minute alone you get when no one joins you in the elevator becomes sacred as well as the lone walk you take in the middle of class to ponder what you're going to eat for dinner, what work you need to catch up on, and yes, to use the restroom. I have taken the liberty for all women finding themselves on their daily jaunt throughout Bannan to rank the restroom situation.

4. First floor ladies restroom: Ah, the old standby. For many of us this was our first find in Bannan. One look on our first day at the awkwardly placed paper towel dispensers, the rusty overflowing tampon bins, the chipping linoleum, and the scattered toilet paper all over the floor and we all thought, "Wow, Charney Hall CANNOT come fast enough." Not to mention all the foot traffic that goes through here. Between classes it's a bloodbath with a line stretching out the door. Need to fix your hair or take a breather

without public scrutiny ladies? Not here you don't.

3. Third floor ladies restroom: Okay, hear me out. One step into this pepto bismol regurgitation of a bathroom made me feel like I was transported onto the set of *Grease*. I half expected Olivia Newton-John to come out of the pink stall, poodle skirt and all, with her ever-classic line, "You making fun of me Rizz?" Pink appeal aside, one must seriously wonder, why is this not an individual bathroom? No one wants to sit in a single stall while another person is in the bathroom with you!

Although I must admit, if you can get in there alone and have the time to squint your eyes and tilt your head a little, it harkens back to an archaic time when women actually had time to powder their noses and wear ribbons in their hair.

2. Second floor ladies restroom: The only reason this scored above the pink restroom is purely for



Photo of new Charney Hall Restroom. Each scholarship taken from a student can provide for a multi-use gender neutral gold toilet

the fact that I truly believe this restroom is haunted. Someone call Ghost Hunters and do a séance in here please. I always find myself not lingering in here due to the fact that it's legitimately creepy. First, why are the lights flickering? Second, why is it 10 degrees cooler in here than in the hallway? My hypothesis is that this bathroom is haunted by 'Groaning Gertrude,' her presence is probably so daunting that the faculty are trying to keep her under wraps. Oh, you didn't know? The construction of Charney Hall is due to the fact that

the good folks on the second floor can't handle the constant groaning and draft of good old "GG." In fact, that's also why room 127 is always freezing. She's been known to haunt the back row, leaving freezing ectoplasm to raise goose bumps on the students' skin. So why does GG haunt us? Why does she live in the second floor bathroom? Murder you say? Not quite. Groaning Gertrude represents all the hopes of the poor souls who DQed and never returned.

1. Gender neutral third floor Restroom: Let's give three "huzzahs," to the school for labeling something "gender neutral," especially in a time where our own President has appointed Mike Pence, who for many is the face of LGBTQ discrimination. With Trump himself having threatened to dissolve the guidance the Obama Administration gave regarding a person's right to use any restroom that matches their identity, I feel SCU Law made a choice that is inclusive for all and provides a safe space for anyone who just wants to lock a door and not worry about being around anyone for a few minutes. Also, this restroom tends to be very clean and for those of us who have to get here early and need to wash our face and brush our teeth, this is a spot where no one will see you in all your morning glory.

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*The Advocate* is the student news publication of Santa Clara University School of Law. The various sections of *The Advocate* are articles that reflect the viewpoint of the authors, and not the opinion of Santa Clara University, *The Advocate* or its editors. *The Advocate* is staffed by law students.

# OFFICE HOURS, EH?

**Harish Tangri**

*Guest Lecturer*

**Currently Teaching:**

- Canadians in Law  
- Faculty supervisor for  
"Anything but Patent Law Society"

*The Advocate* thanks Michael Hartman for interviewing Professor Tangri

**1. What is your top source (news/journal/legal/blog/other) for keeping current with the law?**

*TMZ or Sportscenter.* I prefer not to get bogged down in all the fake news out there.

**2. What do you consider to be the most important development in your field or the legal profession in general over the last 5 years?**

*Friedrichs v. California.* As a teacher, I couldn't be happier with the deadlock of the Supreme Court. Job security is a biggie for me.

**3. If you could go back in time, what advice would you give to yourself in law school?**

It's not worth it.

**4. Who is someone you admire, and why?**

Justice Thomas. He doesn't say much but when he does, he means business.

**5. Any book recommendations?**

*The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo.* Amy is an inspiration to all of us.

**6. Do you have a favorite sports team or particular athlete?**

Maple Leafs. It's a hockey team. Not that anyone around here would know.

**7. What has been your most memorable concert?**

Nickelback, summer of 2006. Next question.

**8. What is your favorite restaurant in the bay area?**

La Victoria Taqueria. By far the best burrito I've ever had. Also the only one I've ever had since I'm from Canada.

**9. If you could have dinner with any person, alive or deceased, who would it be and why?**

Julius Caesar. I'd really like to hear what he would think about my renowned Tangri (Caesar) salad. I guarantee he's never had one better. Believe me.

**10. How do you unwind?**

A glass of Skinny Girl and some Shania Twain.

## LAW SCHOOL IS FOR LOSERS

**By Christina Faliero**

*Associate Editor*

Last week, an anonymous source divulged a selection from a young President Trump's diary. We have been told that the President will make an official comment on the material as soon as he returns from his trip to Russia; it has been rumored that President Putin was recently hospitalized after he and President Trump engaged in an intense game of Twister during the stay.

After graduating from the Wharton School of Business, President Trump apparently attended Santa Clara Law for one semester, before dropping out to pursue his real estate career. These excerpts from his diary recount the President's initial experiences as a 1L in law school:

**August 7, 1968**

What's up, DJT? Hey, that's me! I had a huge day today. It was just the biggest day. It was my first day of law school. I should've gone to Stanford, though. They're the best. They're ranked so high. Rankings are very important to me. That's why I'm number 1. But they wouldn't look at my application because I refused to take the law school test. I don't need a law school test; I'm Donald J. Trump! So my father offered to buy Santa Clara Law and they let me in without the test. Smart people. Very smart people.

So anyway, it was my first day of classes. Wore a suit, I looked good. I looked better than pretty much everyone there. The women? Very average. I only saw one 6.5 (maybe), but I think she was an undergrad. I walked in the building, and

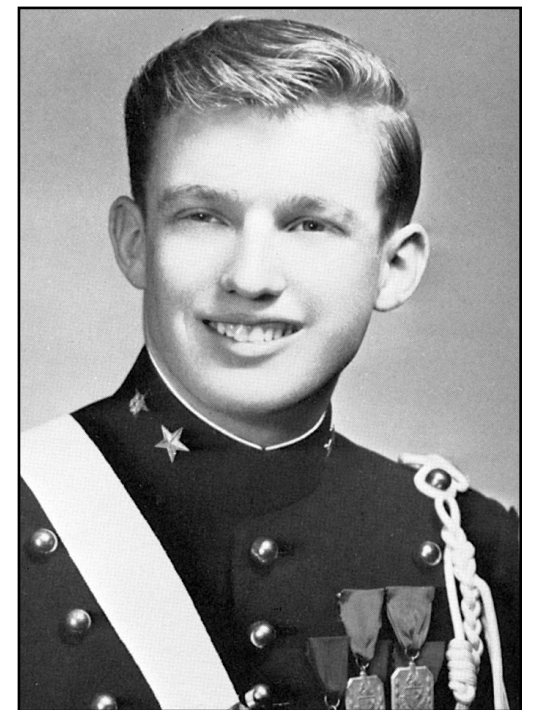
everyone asked, "Are you a lawyer?" And I said, "Do I look like I can I sue you?" HA! I'm the best at suing. I don't know why you even need a degree for that, but here I am, getting my J.D. Thanks, Dad. Did you know J.D. stands for John Doe? I learned that today in Criminal Law.

Oh, Criminal Law. Let me tell you, that woman who teaches it is a total loser. She defends criminals. CRIMINALS. WRONG. She likes immigrants and homeless people. WRONG. She thinks the death penalty is bad. WRONG. She called on me to ask me about a case. I said, "Excuse me. Excuse me. You are here to teach me. You tell me about the case. Excuse me." Total loser, she didn't even know what to say. I didn't go to my Contracts class because I'm already the best at that. I'm not excited for tomorrow, though. Being the smartest in law school makes me tired. I know I'm the smartest because I am. And that's tiring. Goodnight, DJT.

**October 31, 1968**

Today is Halloween. Loser holiday. Our school hosted a "Halloween Bar Review." I didn't want to go, but I know the people need me, so I had to show up. I don't like it, you know I don't like it at all, but on Halloween, people love pumpkins. So I was a pumpkin. Easy costume. Everyone loved it. "You're a great pumpkin, Trump!" What can I say? The people love me.

Our source has only provided us with two excerpts, though we did receive the scrap of a water-damaged page dated "December 10, 1968" and titled "Finals week: very sad. Law school is for losers." Our source adds that there are no



Donald J. Trump's LinkedIn Photo

recorded entries after this date, so it is safe to assume President Trump ended his time as a law student at the outset of his 1L fall final exams.

While President Trump may not have made it through a semester of law school, it is clear that our country believes he is at least equipped to withstand the pressures of being Commander-in-Chief. Mr. Trump will probably tweet about the dissemination of this rather embarrassing information, calling it "FAKE NEWS!" But who knows what the American people will believe; after all, satire is confounded with reality these days. We're just trying to tell the stories.

# RUMOR MILL WITH DEAN ERWIN

By Susan Erwin  
Senior Assistant Dean

Dear Rumor Mill,

I know what you'll want to talk about this month – those ranking things. Ugh. My least favorite topic.

I have done extensive research on the subject of rankings and have uncovered some surprising facts! The magazines send “secret students” into law schools across the country to investigate the important things that everyone needs to know - how many miles to the nearest bar, how much free food is available at noon each day, and how many parking spaces are reserved for law students only. Secret students are also tasked with eavesdropping on hallway conversations and peeking into classrooms. They report back on the number of laptops in the classroom displaying course notes vs. the number showing ESPN, solitaire, Zappos or Tinder. (There is a pretty strong Zappos-to-bar failure correlation that seems to be more predictive than the LSAT). Automatic points are given for commencement speakers who have TV shows, more than six pie charts in an admissions viewbook and the number of faculty cars in the parking lot that cost more than a house. The difference between T2 and T3 is really all about how much free stuff is given away from orientation through commencement, measured in U.S. pounds. Supplemental points have been awarded in the past for the highest number of diverse students on a single brochure cover and the cleverest t-shirt design. (We earned a lot of points the year the Jewish Law Student Association was selling their famous “You had me at Shalom” shirt!) If you factor all of these things in and look at recent events at SCU – the closing of The Hut, the cessation of noontime food bribes, the lack of pie charts, and our faculty’s surprisingly modest taste in motor vehicles. . . . it seems pretty obvious that we are destined to be ranked below 100.

As much as this might ring true to some of you, it ain't. April Fools. Here's the real deal:

Last year, we were ranked 129th in US News Rankings. This year, we are 132 out of about 200 ABA-accredited law schools. We actually only dropped one point in our overall score from last year, but because we are “graded on a curve” it equals a change in of 3 places in our ordinal rankings. There has been a lot written about the usefulness or validity of these rankings. There are a million ways to slice and dice numbers and another million ways to interpret them. Institutions that publish rankings have been criticized for many of their methods – entirely subjective survey cards carrying most of the weight, measurements that compare employment among states with huge variations in employment numbers, and accounting for all of the claims that schools

might be “gaming” the system. Nonetheless, because employers and prospective students (and you all) pay attention to the rankings, we do, too.

Points are awarded in a number of different categories. Our outcomes count for 20%. U.S. News look at bar passage, employment rates at graduation and employment rates at 10 months. These are the areas that we, as a school, chose to focus on – the efforts that would help our current students the most. Our bar pass rate increased by 78 points and our employment rates increased by 12 points! We will continue to focus our energy and our resources on helping each of you pass the bar and find a job. We do this primarily because it is important for you and we want to provide a legal education that gives you real value. Unfortunately, for U.S. News rankings, outcomes count for only one-fifth of our points.

The largest percentage of points comes from our reputation. Academic reputation is determined by short opinion surveys sent to law school deans and professors. Non-academic reputation comes from survey responses sent in by judges and employers. Combined, these opinions make up 40% of our points. Responses tend to be self-reinforcing. Imagine a trial judge in a distant county filling in a survey card asking her opinion of SCU. All she knows about us is that we didn't rank very high last year, so she rates us accordingly and the feedback loop continues. Schools have done all kinds of things to promote their schools to the opinion makers. They spend thousands of dollars mailing each other shiny brochures (known as “law porn”) about how great they are and clogging up recycling bins across the country. Law schools are still trying to find ways to increase their numbers but it's difficult to beat the feedback loop. Our reputation rankings among law schools went down 5 points on the curve, while our non-academic rating dropped 24 places. At 40% of our overall score, these subjective numbers that we don't have a lot of control over hurt us. Maybe we need a winning NCAA-level law school sports team; such teams have changed the reputational rankings of many undergraduate schools!

Another 25% of our score comes from the entering credentials of our incoming class – median LSAT, median undergraduate GPA, and our acceptance rate (how many of our applicants we admitted compared to how many applied). Again, this is part of the self-reinforcing quality of the rankings. Students with the highest LSATs and grades tend to apply to the highest ranking law schools. But . . . I'm never going to say that other schools are better because their median LSAT or GPA is higher. We are a regional school, so many of you come here for reasons other than our ranking. We are also proud to have some nationally acclaimed programs that attract people beyond our region. We accept the best applicants we can and bring in the best class that we can and you are awesome. You are our people and we are proud

of that. We Are Who We Are.

Our resources count for another 15% - which they choose to measure by how much we spend on instruction and other expenses, what our student to faculty ratio is and how many volumes our library has. We aren't that Palo Alto school with billions of dollars in endowments. Our faculty numbers have gone down due to retirements, our library has been cut and our budgets have gotten tighter. BUT we have managed to get through some tough years in legal education, our Dean has raised enough money for a brand new building (with some generous help from the University) and now she is focusing on increasing our endowments and student scholarship funds.

Other U.S. News rankings include “Specialties”, where we came in 4th for Intellectual Property. Our part-time program tied for 32nd place and we are 13th on the list of their Diversity Index.

In other rankings (that I am profiling because I like them more and they focus on the success of our graduates):

-The National Law Journal published their Top 50 Go-To Law Schools, based on the percentage of 2016 graduates who have associate jobs at the top 100 big law firms. [SCU was ranked 47th.](#)

-The National Law Journal's Go-To vs. U.S. News report shows that [SCU has the biggest differential between the two rankings out of all law schools listed.](#)

-The National Law Journal ranked schools by the number of associates promoted to partner. [SCU was tied with UC Berkeley at 30.](#)

-Forbes Magazine [lists SCU Law as the 23rd highest Law School](#) Whose Grads Earn the Most.

-National Jurist [gives SCU an A+ for our International Law programs.](#)

What can you do to help our rankings, you ask . . . Well . . . you can do everything that OABS tells you to do regarding class and bar prep. You can sign up for and take the bar only when you are ready to spend the time to study seriously and give it your best effort. AND . . . please, please, please . . . when OCM asks you for employment information, please tell them! There are 28 students from the class of 2016 that haven't responded to us yet. There are about 10 of us that are spending the better part of our day trying to get a response from these folks. For each student that doesn't respond, we have to mark them as unknown and it counts against us in the next round of rankings. So please keep talking to us! :)

**Heard any rumors lately? If so, send me an email – [serwin@scu.edu](mailto:serwin@scu.edu)**

# OFFICE HOURS UNWOUND

Despite the April Fools content in this issue, the below articles are genuine.  
Special thanks to Professor Wildman and Professor Russell for their thoughtful responses.



**Stephanie M. Wildman**  
*John A. and Elizabeth H. Sutro Professor of Law*

**Currently Teaching:**  
Community Property

**Education:**  
-J.D., Stanford University  
-A.B., with Honors  
in Humanities, Stanford  
University

**1. What is your top source (news / journal / legal blog / other) for keeping current with the law?**

New York Times; San Francisco Daily Journal; and colleagues.

**2. What do you consider to be the most important development in your field or the legal profession in general over the last 5 years?**

The drop-off in interest in attending law school (a nationwide phenomenon) will impact the profession for years to come. So it is an important development, but not particularly a positive.

**3. If you could go back in time, what advice would you give to yourself in law school?**

Start practicing yoga.

**4. Who is someone you admire, and why?**

Justice Cruz Reynoso is a modest person, but so accomplished. He could command VIP status in any crowd, but he just shows up to participate like everyone else. Excellent film about him by Abby Ginzberg available in the SCU Law library.

**5. Any book recommendations?**

Nonfiction: Anyone in the legal profession should read Richard Kluger's *Simple Justice: The History of Brown v. Board of Education* and *Black America's Struggle for Equality* (2004). Fiction: Richard Bradley, *The Chaneyville Incident*; Gabriel Garcia-

Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*; and any books by Alice Walker.

**6. Do you have a favorite sports team or particular athlete**

SF Giants and Golden State Warriors

**7. What has been your most memorable concert experience?**

Holly Near, Cris Williamson, Ronnie Gilbert – it's a long time ago.

**8. What is your favorite restaurant in the bay area?**

Tie between Ton Kiang on Geary in SF and Tanuki Sushi on California Street, also in SF.

**9. If you could have dinner with any person, alive or deceased, who would it be and why?**

I would welcome another chance to have dinner with my grandmother Lena Sokol. I owe a lot to her and I'd like to tell her about my grandchildren. I would like to ask her more about her own experience as an immigrant and as a mother and grandmother.

**10. How do you unwind?**

I try to be unwound all the time. But in the spirit of your question, I do have a serious yoga practice that helps me throughout the day. Long walks and chocolate, too.

**1. What is your top source (news / journal / legal blog / other) for keeping current with the law?**

My favorite is SCOTUSblog, and I occasionally read through the Daily Journal and California Lawyer.

**2. What do you consider to be the most important development in your field or the legal profession in general over the last 5 years?**

In my field (constitutional law), I find the transition of the Roberts Court after the death of Justice Scalia to be very significant. The refusal of Senate leaders to have hearings for Judge Merrick Garland in 2016, and the current consideration of the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch, represent a turning point in Congressional politics and in the composition of the Supreme Court. In the legal profession as a whole, I am also immensely interested in the rise of restorative justice and other non-litigation options for resolving disputes.

**3. If you could go back in time, what advice would you give to yourself in law school?**

I actually enjoyed law school and my life during those years. Perhaps I would advise myself to take a few more business courses in order to understand nonprofit management, since I have spent a lot of my pro bono time working with nonprofit organizations.

**4. Who is someone you admire, and why?**

In the current political world, I admire a few people in Congress whom I consider to be extremely principled and strong: John Lewis, Barbara Lee, Bernie Sanders, and Al Franken (whom I have liked since he was a comedian). In the arts, I am very grateful for the talents of Lin-Manuel Miranda and Stephen Colbert (no kidding). In the law, I am not going to name anyone because other people in my life will feel slighted!

**5. Any book recommendations?**

I often recommend Ann Patchett's *Bel Canto* (2001), because the beauty of her writing was such a revelation to me when I read it. My favorite authors are probably Toni Morrison and William Faulkner, who write from different perspectives about the intractable role of race in the American story.

**6. Do you have a favorite sports team or particular athlete?**

Golden State Warriors. Steph Curry. Who else?

**7. What has been your most memorable concert experience?**

Can I name a couple, because I am too old to have one? Prince; David Bowie; Carlos Santana; Marvin Gaye.

**8. What is your favorite restaurant in the bay area?**

I have always loved Upstairs at Chez Panisse, in Berkeley, and the Zuni Cafe in San Francisco.

**9. If you could have dinner with any person, alive or deceased, who would it be and why?**

William Shakespeare would be kind of a kick. My dream is that we would speak in iambic pentameter and that he would tell me who really wrote his plays.

**10. How do you unwind?**

Music, yoga, walking near the ocean, and spending time with loved ones.



**Margaret Russell**  
*Associate Professor of Law*

**Currently Teaching:**  
- Constitutional Law II  
- Public Interest and Social  
Justice Workshop: Restorative  
Justice Practicum

**Education:**  
-J.D., Stanford University  
-J.S.M., Stanford University,  
-B.A., cum laude, Princeton  
University

## 21ST CENTURY PRIVACY: THE EU AND THE GDPR

By **Brendan Comstock**  
Staff Writer



I once again ask you, what does privacy mean in the 21st century? The collection and usage of our personal data is an issue that is of increasing importance here in the States; an issue brought into the spotlight under unfavorable circumstances recently with the action taken by Congress regarding ISP's collection of our data. However, that topic will have to wait for another day. Today, I will be covering how the European Union views personal privacy and what they are doing legislatively to preserve their privacy. This article is based on speaker panels I attended in February at the RSA conference in San Francisco.

The general view regarding collection and usage of personal data in the United States is that you can do it unless the law says you cannot, whereas in the EU you cannot do it unless the law says you can. The EU looks at privacy as a human right, and we look at it as a constitutional right; the differences between the two are stark.

The landmark legislation that is at the forefront of the mind of every privacy professional is the General Data Protection Regulation. The GDPR was approved in May 2016 and will go into effect in May 2018. According to Keith Enright of Google, the

GDPR is tremendously ambiguous which makes it difficult for companies to know exactly how to comply. Non-compliance, however, may lead to debilitating repercussions. Two components I will be talking about today are consent and the right to be forgotten. Before I delve into those components, I think it is wise to clarify the territorial scope of the GDPR. The easiest way to define the territorial scope? If you have a customer that is a citizen of the EU, no matter where you are located, the GDPR regulates you. Simple as that.

First, EU users now have the right to give consent to their data being collected and used. As outlined by the GDPR, the consent must be "freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous." Chris Zoladz of Navigate LLC, a company that offers privacy compliance help to companies, pointed out that for certain sensitive data, "explicit consent" is required. He also stated that gone are the days that a company presents a 10,000 word document that forces someone to consent, or worse yet, a pre-clicked consent form. The consent form needs to be clear and conspicuous. A subcomponent regarding consent is that EU citizens under the age of 16 cannot give consent themselves; they need a parent or guardian to provide that consent. Furthermore, each individual member-state has the right to lower the age of consent to 13. The EU was clearly worried about individuals being ill-informed about the use of their personal data and strove to ensure transparency regarding such use by companies. The next component, the right to be forgotten, has two subcomponents: the right to data erasure and the right to data portability. The right to data erasure is what it sounds like.

Article 17 of the GDPR states that a data subject has the right to request that the data controller erase personal data attributable to him or her without undue delay. The GDPR defines personal data as any data that can be

attributed back to an identified or identifiable individual. Needless to say, that is a broad definition that casts a wide net over a lot of personal data. This does put quite a burden upon small and large companies. A small online company based in Palo Alto will have a difficult time responding to what could be thousands of requests. At the same time, a large company, such as Google, will have a difficult time responding to hundreds of thousands of requests. Mr. Zoladz estimated that there were 600,000 data erasure requests to Google by EU citizens over the past few years. The right to data portability permits a user to request that the personal data they have provided the controller be sent either to the user or another data controller the user chooses. This provides the user with the right to control their own data; this is yet another safeguard that protects the users but also places an encumbrance upon many companies worldwide.

The GDPR is both lauded and loathed, and quite clearly, the latter is the sentiment held by many companies. Nonetheless, they must comply or face harsh tangible and intangible punishments. The GDPR provides that non-compliance may subject individuals, not just companies, to individual lawsuits. In addition, infractions may lead to fines upwards of 4% of a company's global revenue. Trust is a large part of a company's relationship with its customers. If companies are constantly being taken to task by the media for their illegal data collection and usage, that trust may leave and never return. Although it may be difficult for many companies to comply with these and the other measures of the GDPR, the bottom line is that privacy is regarded as a human right in Europe. Ignoring that right may lead to a company losing access to their entire EU customer base.

## HOW TO BALANCE LAW SCHOOL AND LIFE

By **Jessie Reeves**  
Staff Writer

Are you feeling anxious, bewildered or defeated by the mountain of reading and impending finals? Finding a balance between school and life is a perplexing task; law school requires at least double the amount of studying as undergraduate programs. However, not taking breaks for personal enjoyment is often counter-productive. Exercise is vital in decreasing stress. A physical activity that you enjoy can become a guilt-free distraction from the mundane study routine that all students inevitably fall into on their quest of achieving higher grades.

Law students spend an overwhelming amount of time with other law students, usually discussing topics related to school. These friendships are necessary to help navigate and solidify the complex concepts that you are learning. But, this can cause you to become consumed with thoughts that you need to increase the time you dedicate to studying, you begin questioning whether you are doing enough to stay above the curve and your self-worth inevitably becomes tethered to your GPA. This is why it is crucial that you have friends outside of law school who you share an interest with. These relationships will serve as an escape from the world where you have to be a law student and will help you in maintaining your sanity.

I fell in love with cycling a year before I decided to attend law school. The passion and drive that members of the cycling community have drew me into the sport. While it took time and effort to develop the necessary skills, the freedom and peace I found on the bike was life changing. After incorporating cycling into

my normal routine I realized how much this simple activity was impacting other aspects of my life; I was more focused in professional pursuits and I had gained a sense of accomplishment through meeting goals that I had set.

Everyone has seen the solo cyclists with a distant facial expression consumed by their own thoughts; this may lead some to believe that cycling is a lonely activity. That could not be further from the truth. While cyclists do enjoy riding alone because it gives them time to search themselves and evaluate decisions that they are facing in their private and professional lives, the members of the cycling community are some of the most welcoming and open-minded people that I have had the pleasure of meeting. Cyclists have an uncontrollable desire to share their love of bikes. They are willing to show newbies ways to improve their form, getting the perfect bike fit and exploring new routes. Through social media and local bike shops I started joining group rides and formed relationships with likeminded people looking for road companions. Cycling is a healthy outlet and provides a short escape from the endless reading and studying.

I enjoy that when I am on my bike I can forget about law school for a short amount of time while reducing stress. Cycling is not an activity that will appeal to everyone but there are an unlimited range of physical activities that students utilize to maintain their mental and physical health.

- I run because it's MY time. It's my selfish, think about whatever I want, listen to whatever music I want and just



feel my lungs expand and contract, my feet hitting the ground. -Anonymous

- For me, physical activity is the only time when my anxiety ceases. It's a healthy way to escape the demands of life and release my energy. All day I'm worried about the future, my career, etc. When I'm in the gym, my biggest concern is getting a piece of iron from point A to point B. - Anonymous

- When I practice yoga, I feel grounded and connected to the world around me as well as myself. It's what allows me to live in the present moment. When I hit the mat, it's just me and my breath. Each inhale is about taking in what I need and each exhale is letting go of something that does not serve me. All the chaos of law school falls away in those moments. -Anonymous

## “BIOHACKERS” AND “DIY BIOLOGISTS”

By **Benjamin Schwartz**

*Senior Editor*

Late last month Mildred Cho, a professor at Stanford Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics and Associate Director of the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics, delivered a lecture on campus entitled “Moral Frameworks for Synthetic Biology in the Age of Biohacking.” This talk highlighted the new threat that biohackers and “do it yourself” (DIY) biologists pose on society given their loose moral framework.

Biohacking and DIY biology has arisen as a result of the rapid advancement of modern science, specifically in the field genetic engineering, and the ease at which information is now able to be wirelessly transmitted. Dr. Cho noted that persons characterized as biohackers and DIY biologists are a mixed group of professionals and nonprofessionals, and she broke down this community into two distinct types: tinkerers and upgraders. The first type, the “tinkerer,” focuses on molecular biology and places high value on innovation and playfulness. The second type, the “upgrader,” focuses on self-experimentation and is not limited to changes in his/her genetic makeup. Of the two, a danger is posed by the tinkerer since his actions are generally not limited to impacting only himself, but also the community around him.

The most dramatic impact these biohackers can achieve is irreversibly changing the genetic makeup of an individual, which will have an effect on the population ad infinitum due to the hereditary nature of passing along genetic information to offspring. While it takes a highly skilled scientist in near-perfect lab settings to actually make these types of changes to human DNA, the technology that is available now makes it easier than ever before. The technological breakthrough known as CRISPR, (an acronym of Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats), may be utilized as a

research tool for experiments that involve genetic engineering.

The main appeal of CRISPR is that it makes genetic engineering more efficient, more accurate, and cheaper than ever before. Unlike its predecessors that cost up to \$5,000, the total cost of CRISPR can be as little as \$30. Reputable scientists are currently doing research using this tool. For example, in 2015 a group of Chinese scientists reported editing the genomes of non-



viable fertilized human embryos and were successful in modifying the gene responsible for  $\beta$ -thalassaemia, a potentially fatal blood disorder. This proof of principle shows that scientists may soon be able to develop human applications using CRISPR. However, what threat can a biohacker or DIY biologist pose by experimenting with a research tool like CRISPR?

Dr. Cho admitted that it could be possible for a biohacker to acquire the necessary materials and equipment to make a change to the human germline. CRISPR applications to human embryos with the intention of creating life, as opposed to experimentation for solely research purposes, have the effect of making permanent changes to the human gene pool. While it is highly unlikely that even the best scientist, let alone any biohacker, could successfully create life from a CRISPR manipulated embryo, Dr. Cho focused

the discussion on the ethical and moral dilemmas of persons even attempting to do so without proper training.

Biohackers and others have access to commercial CRISPR toolkits and other research tools necessary to carry out these experiments, a phenomenon Dr. Cho coined the “uber-ization of everything” in today’s society. The “uber-ization of everything” was characterized as the de-institutionalization and de-professionalism that occurs due to the existence of a technological age where science is more accessible than ever. As a result of this ease of access, these ethical and moral dilemmas arise.

The stigma against biohackers creating life is no different than the opposition to reproductive technologies like in vitro fertilization (IVF) and even cloning. Many people are not comfortable with professionals “playing God,” in a way where the end result of experimentation is the creation of human life. If people are already uncomfortable with the idea of “designer babies” in a regulated professional setting, it can be safe to assume that even more would disagree with biohackers pursuing the same undertakings in an unregulated setting.

Dr. Cho is absolutely correct in addressing the need for this kind of technology to only be used by professionals in a regulated industry. Although it is unlikely that any biohacker or DIY biologist can accomplish a feat such as genetically engineering a “designer baby,” the discussion of the morality and ethical implications of doing so should be prophylactic.

A recorded [version of this presentation can be found here](#).