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BALANCING LAW SCHOOL AND WORK: A GUIDE FOR BUSY STUDENTS

SARAI LEWIS

Baton Rouge, LA – Law school is an intense academic commitment, and for students who also work, managing both responsibilities can feel overwhelming. From long readings and assignments to work obligations and personal life, the challenge requires discipline, careful planning, and a strong support system. However, many students have successfully balanced both, proving that with the right strategies, it is possible to thrive in both the academic and professional worlds.

Mastering Time Management

One of the most critical skills for maintaining a balance between work and law school is effective time management. Developing a structured schedule that accounts for coursework, study time, work hours, and personal obligations is key.

- **Use a Planner or Digital Calendar:** Tools like Google Calendar, Notion, or traditional planners help track deadlines, class schedules, and work shifts.
- **Prioritize Tasks:** Identify urgent assignments and allocate study time accordingly.
- **Avoid Procrastination:** Sticking to a set schedule and working ahead when possible can prevent last-minute stress.

Maximizing Study Efficiency

To succeed in law school while maintaining job responsibilities, students must make the most of their study time.

- **Leverage Active Learning:** Summarizing readings, creating outlines, and using flashcards can enhance retention.
- **Utilize Breaks Wisely:** Reviewing notes or listening to legal podcasts during work breaks can reinforce learning.
- **Join Study Groups:** Collaborating with peers can provide academic support and improve understanding of complex topics.

Communication with Employers and Professors

Being upfront about law school commitments can help working students gain flexibility when needed.

- **Inform Your Employer:** Some workplaces offer accommodations for student employees, including flexible schedules and remote work options.
- **Engage with Professors:** If work conflicts with a class or deadline, discussing potential alternatives with professors can provide relief.

Prioritizing Mental and Physical Well-Being

Balancing law school and work can be stressful, making self-care essential.

- **Get Enough Sleep:** Lack of rest impacts productivity and cognitive function.
- **Exercise Regularly:** Short walks or workouts can boost energy and reduce stress.
- **Stay Connected:** Maintaining relationships with friends, family, and classmates can provide motivation and support.

While balancing law school and work presents challenges, success is possible with the right approach. By effectively managing time, employing efficient study techniques, maintaining open communication, and prioritizing well-being, students can excel academically and professionally. The skills developed through this balancing act will prove invaluable in future legal careers.

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT BRINGS “RIDING THE CIRCUIT” TRADITION TO SULC

SARAI LEWIS



Chief Justice John L. Weimer delivers remarks during the post-argument reception at SULC. Photo by Sarai Lewis.

On Monday, March 17, 2025, Southern University Law Center (SULC) welcomed the Louisiana Supreme Court to campus as it held oral arguments, continuing a centuries-old tradition rooted in the historical practice of “Riding the Circuit.”

“Riding the Circuit” refers to a time when judges, including early U.S. Supreme Court Justices, traveled from town to town to hold court, ensuring access to justice for citizens in remote areas. While modern transportation and court systems have since centralized much of the judiciary, Louisiana’s highest court honors this tradition by bringing proceedings directly to law schools across the state.

At SULC, students, faculty, and staff gathered to observe four cases argued before the Court, with retired Judge Richard Anderson sitting as Justice ad hoc for one case in which Justice Piper D. Griffin recused herself.

For many SULC students, witnessing the state’s highest court in action was more than just an academic exercise, it was a rare opportunity to experience appellate litigation up close.

“Attending the Supreme Court arguments was truly an eye-opening experience,” said 1L student Brittany Theriot. “It was amazing to witness the skills and techniques we’re learning in class being put into practice. The biggest lesson I took away was the necessity of being fully prepared. It became clear who was ready to tackle any question the judges posed and who wasn’t quite as ready to handle the intense arguments.”

Following the proceedings, the Justices engaged in an open dialogue with students and faculty during a post-argument reception, where they discussed the justice system and the critical role professionalism plays in legal careers.

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The visit was particularly meaningful for SULC alumnus and newly elected Associate Justice John Michael Guidry, who returned to his alma mater as a sitting Justice for the first time. Justice Guidry, who joined the Louisiana Supreme Court in January 2025 after nearly three decades on the First Circuit Court of Appeal, shared reflections on his journey from SULC student to the state’s highest court. In his honor, a portrait was unveiled and will now hang on SULC’s campus.

“The Justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court and I enthusiastically welcome the 20-plus-year tradition of holding oral arguments at academic venues,” Chief Justice John L. Weimer remarked. “By hearing arguments at law schools, we provide law students—who may one day argue before the Supreme Court—and faculty the opportunity to witness the judicial process.” The event was made possible through a partnership between SULC Chancellor Alvin Washington, Vice Chancellor Regina Ramsey, Vice Chancellor Shawn D. Vance, SULC’s IT and Security teams, and Louisiana Supreme Court Clerk of Court Veronica O. Koclanes.

As SULC continues to prioritize experiential learning, the Court’s visit served as a powerful reminder that the lessons of history, like the principles behind “Riding the Circuit,” continue to shape an accessible and engaged justice system today.

YOUR TEMU AND SHEIN ORDERS MAY NO LONGER BE CHEAP

NICOLAS GARON

The recent trade war escalations between China and the Trump White House may lead to price increases on popular drop shipping websites. Temu and Shein, two widely known drop shipping platforms headquartered in China, have a significant presence in American popular culture. Shein boasts over 13 million U.S. shoppers, while Temu has more than 100 million.

Since the swearing-in of U.S. President Donald Trump, the White House has imposed an additional 10% tariff on Chinese imports. A tariff is a tax paid by the importing party. The Wall Street Journal identified a trade loophole used by Chinese drop shipping sites like Shein and Temu called de minimis. To prevent an overwhelming backlog in U.S. customs operations, this rule exempts imports valued under \$800 from taxation, regardless of the importer. Since most U.S. orders from these sites are under \$75, the de minimis exemption has kept costs low for consumers.

However, in recent days, Trump announced that the de minimis exemption will no longer apply to Chinese shipments to the United States, which is expected to drive up prices.

THE NIL BOOM: HOW ATHLETE BRANDING IS CHANGING COLLEGE SPORTS

KEYRA JOHNSON

Since the NCAA's landmark decision to allow college athletes to profit from their name, image, and likeness (NIL), the sports landscape has been transformed. What began as a simple opportunity for athletes to sign sponsorship deals has evolved into a multi-billion-dollar industry, shaping the future of college athletics.

Looking ahead, industry experts predict NIL deals will become even more structured, with universities integrating NIL programs into their recruitment strategies. National and state-level regulations will likely emerge to create more uniformity across the country. Additionally, collectives—groups pooling money to offer NIL deals—will play a larger role in shaping college sports' competitive balance.

While NIL offers financial empowerment to athletes, challenges such as fair market value assessment, taxation issues, and potential exploitation remain. However, in the next five years, NIL is expected to continue expanding, with more student-athletes becoming millionaires before they even go pro.

FROM COURTROOMS TO CONTRACTS: BREAKING INTO SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW

KEYRA JOHNSON

The sports and entertainment legal industry is one of the most competitive fields in law, often requiring connections and experience that many young lawyers struggle to acquire. However, there are strategic ways to break in—even without direct experience.

Here are some key tips:

1. **Leverage Transferable Skills-** Contract law, negotiations, and intellectual property are crucial in sports and entertainment. Gain experience in these areas first.
2. **Network Relentlessly-** Attend industry events, connect with professionals on LinkedIn, and seek mentorship.
3. **Start Small –** Offer free or discounted legal services to local athletes, musicians, and influencers to build a portfolio.
4. **Stay Informed–** The industry is ever-evolving. Subscribe to entertainment law journals and follow major cases.

Breaking in requires persistence, but those who remain adaptable and proactive will find opportunities in this exciting field.

AI IN LAW: THE FUTURE OF JUSTICE OR A LEGAL MINEFIELD?

KEYRA JOHNSON

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the legal industry, offering new tools for efficiency and accuracy. Legal research, contract analysis, and even litigation predictions are now powered by AI, reducing workload and improving outcomes.

Benefits of AI in Law

1. **Efficiency –** AI can review thousands of documents in minutes, streamlining research and discovery.
2. **Cost Savings–** Firms can reduce billable hours and increase productivity.
3. **Access to Justice –** AI-powered legal chatbots can provide low-cost legal assistance to underserved populations.

Potential Risks

1. **Bias in Algorithms –** AI models may inherit biases, leading to unfair legal conclusions.
2. **Job Displacement–** Automation threatens certain legal positions, particularly in paralegal work.
3. **Ethical Concerns–** AI lacks human judgment, making its application in sensitive legal matters risky.

While AI seems to be here to stay, its implementation must be carefully managed to ensure fairness, accuracy, and ethical responsibility which are pillars of the legal profession.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ON THE BALLOT: THE IMPACT OF LOUISIANA'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT ON YOUTH PROSECUTION

EBONY WILLIAMS, GUEST COLUMNIST

Louisiana voters will decide this question in the upcoming March election: “Do you support an amendment to provide the legislature the authority to determine which felony crimes, when committed by a person under the age of seventeen, may be transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult?” A vote yes would allow more juveniles to be tried and sentenced as adults, beyond current limitations, while a vote no may support the state in moving away from harsh juvenile sentencing and towards preventative and rehabilitative practices.

Senate Bill No. 2 (SB2), introduced by Senators Cloud and Morris, and Representative Villo, proposes to amend the Louisiana Constitution, specifically, Article V, Section 19, to expand the list of felony crimes to which special juvenile procedures shall not apply, thereby allowing more offenses committed by minors under seventeen to be transferred for prosecution in adult criminal court. Article V, Section 19 of the Louisiana Constitution, and the proposed amendment have similarities, such as they both establish a framework for juveniles who committed crimes before their seventeenth birthday, which include a framework for juvenile proceedings, including guilt, determination, detention, and custody. Additionally, they both maintain the legislative authority to change these proceedings by a majority vote, dependent upon the modification.

Despite these similarities, a notable difference exists that will have significant implications on the juvenile justice system in Louisiana. The proposed amendment removes the list of specific felony crimes for which legislatures can decide that juvenile procedures will not apply and replaces it with “certain felony offenses provided by law.” This minor, yet pivotal change is a spark in a dry forest.

Although, appearing more concise, and flexible, the proposed amendment lacks transparency and leaves room for interpretation and ambiguity in determining which offenses committed by minors lose special juvenile procedures. The proposed change may undermine legal protections for juveniles, risk constitutional violations, and lead to an increase in juveniles being tried as adults based on how legislature choose which felonies fall under the ambiguous phrase “certain felony offenses provided by law.”

To conceptualize this ambiguity, it is important to understand how a felony in Louisiana is unlike any other felony across America. According to the Louisiana State Legislature, a felony has two requirements (1) any crime for which an offender may be sentenced to death or imprisonment or hard labor and (2) the charge imposes more than a year in prison. Considering Louisiana rule for classifying felonies, with the proposed amendment change, the crime of purse snatching by a juvenile under the age of seventeen, may fall within the “certain felony offenses provided by law,” thereby removing special juvenile procedures from the arrested juvenile, and placing them at the mercy of adult proceedings—ignoring the juveniles developmental and rehabilitative needs, or the nature of the crime. A spark in a dry forest. Louisiana voters will face the incredible task of determining if this proposed amendment ensures fair justice for juvenile offenders or if it is simply a ploy to institute oppressive tactics through ambiguous language.



A thought-provoking digital painting depicting the scales of justice and a juvenile inmate. OpenAI.

DEFINING WOMANHOOD 2025

THO'MESIA MOORE



OpenAI

In honor of Women's History Month, I wanted to reflect on the question of what it means to be a woman in 2025. Throughout history, women have been defined by society and told who we are. In the 1900s to the 2000s, we were often reduced to being only wives and mothers. Our place, it seemed, was in the home — raising children and ensuring our husbands had a hot meal to come home to. But thanks to powerful and outspoken women like Shirley Chisholm, Michelle Obama, and countless others, we have rewritten history. We are now scholars, lawyers, engineers, teachers, and doctors. We are living in a time when women no longer have to choose between raising children and marrying a CEO — we are now becoming the CEOs.

In 2025, I believe we as women are still defining who we are. What it means to be a woman is the most dynamic thing ever. We are constantly evolving, rewriting history, and breaking barriers. However, many individuals continue to reduce us to superficial judgments. A perfect example is Kamala Harris, who would have been the first woman president. She was picked apart based on the pronunciation of her name, the color of her suit, and even the tone of her voice. What it means to be a woman is not a cakewalk. Striving for positions of power — like the presidency — is not easy. We are constantly pushing against the grain, breaking social norms, only to be minimized and criticized.

We are also in a constant struggle to find the "right" balance — not just for ourselves, but for others. When we are too opinionated, we are labeled with unflattering terms. When we dress up for work, we are told we are "too flashy." We are called bossy when we are assertive, while male leaders are praised for their dominant nature. Yet, we are still told to sit back, be coy, and act "like a lady." I believe women everywhere, like myself, are in an internal battle to figure out what is truly acceptable as a woman, especially in the digital age.

If you scroll through TikTok, Instagram, or Twitter, you will see countless women striving to balance work, life, and personal goals. Women are expected to be the perfect mom, wife, and boss — and we are constantly told we must choose between them. We can't have it all. But can we truly have it all in a world where women are expected to do everything? We are expected to be the best moms, but if we leave the kids with dad, we're not fulfilling our "motherly role." We are expected to be the best wives, as if failing to do so means someone will "steal your man." We are expected to chase our goals and succeed, because if we don't, we are seen as dependent. Women are now redefining what it means to be a woman — not just for society, but for ourselves, despite the pressure of external judgment and the conflicting roles society demands us to fulfill.

DEFINING WOMANHOOD 2025

THO'MESIA MOORE

As a first-generation, 24-year-old law student about to become an attorney, I have reflected deeply on what it means to be a woman in this day and age. As someone who is about to become a high earner and a Black woman, I am breaking stereotypes and challenging societal norms. In the Black community, there is pressure for Black women to choose between career success and motherhood. I reject this narrative. I do not believe we should be expected to “do it all.” This notion conforms to the “strong Black woman” stereotype, which I refuse to accept.

For me, building a successful career means finding a partner who supports and helps create a balanced life. Success isn't about doing everything alone; it's about collaboration, partnership, and mutual support. As I move into this next chapter of my life, my focus is on redefining what it means to be a woman on my terms. There is space for me to be strong, independent, and a boss. But there is also space for me to be subtle, soft, feminine, and relaxed. We shouldn't have to pick one over the other, and we certainly shouldn't have to explain or validate our choices to anyone.

As I continue to grow as a woman, I know that what it means to be me will continue to evolve. I believe that as a Black woman, I want to challenge the social norm within the Black community that equates living in your softness with being lazy, dependent on a man, or weak. Why must we always equate our worth to how hard we work? This question of what it means to be a woman in 2025 is multifaceted. As I embark on this new chapter of my life, I am excited to define what it looks like for me.

A Call to Action

My call to action for myself, and for other women, is simple: it's okay to be afraid. It's okay to step outside the box. It's okay to defy social norms. You don't have to ask for permission. In fact, stop asking for permission to step out on faith and break generational curses. The women before us didn't achieve what they wanted by waiting for permission or for someone to give it to them. In this day and age, it's essential to write your own rules and define who you want to be. That is what I believe it means to be a woman in 2025.