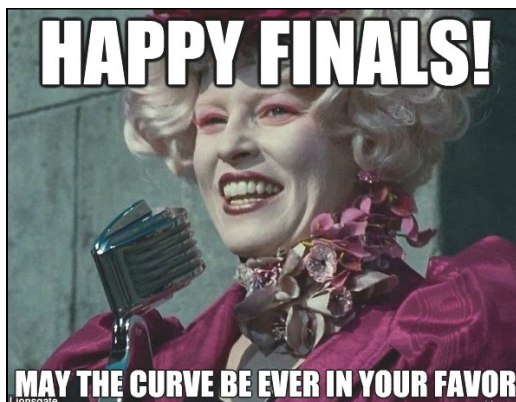


# Bathroom Reader

Issue 33, December 2016

## GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!

The Library wishes you good luck on your final exams and papers! Don't forget about the study aids available behind the Circulation Desk. Also, posted on the Library website is the link to past exams, just look for "Exam Archive." If you're looking to recharge, be on the lookout for the "Pro-Se Café" where there will be snacks and coffee in the Lobby. It'll run 12/5 - 12/7.



## ABA'S ACCREDITATION POWER?

In June of this year, an entity of the DoE called the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) recommended suspending the ABA's accreditation power. In so doing, the NACIQI noted the ABA's failure to implement its student achievement standards and probationary sanctions, while also falling short on its audit process and analysis of graduates' debt levels. Although the DoE declined to do take away the accreditation power, in September, the agency warned the ABA that they had 12 months comply with federal regulations govern-

ing accreditation activities. Or else.

It comes as no surprise, then, that the ABA has recently proposed a new rule mandating that 75% of a law school's alumni must pass the bar within two years of graduation, while eliminating some loopholes for the current standard. (See previous issue for discussion on falling bar passage rates.) In response, one school, Arizona Summit Law, has implemented a mock bar exam as part of its graduation requirements for students below a 3.33 GPA. While the mock bar would virtually assure the law school's compliance with the new rule (by not granting degrees to those who don't pass), it's a raw deal for law students who passed all of their classes—and paid tuition. We'll have to wait to see how the ABA responds as the clock continues to tick on the DoE's ultimatum.

## LANGUAGE OF LOVE LAW

As the Normans began to take over England, they brought changes to the legal system. The introduction of feudalism meant that nearly all of the land was held by the monarch, the Domesday Book allowed the accurate calculation of taxes, and travelling judges began making common law over time, assisted by juries.

Besides changes to the system, the Normans also brought their language—French. Some, like *voir dire*, *force majeure*, *cy pres*, and *escheats*, are obvious enough. Others, though, are less so, like *parol* and

*parole*, *bailiff*, *larceny*, and even *plaintiff*, *defendant*, and *attorney*. Even more interesting is when they couldn't choose a word and just used both, one from each language. Examples of these doublets are *goods and chattels*, *cease and desist*, *null and void*, and *aiding and abetting*. So, while its position as the language of love still holds true, at one time in England, French was also the language of law.

## STATUE-TORY ASSAULT

What comes to mind when you hear the term "deadly weapon?" A gun? A knife? Well, in Texas, a jury in the case of *State v. Padilla* found that the defendant had committed aggravated assault with a deadly weapon when he hit his ex-girlfriend on the head with . . . a small statue of baby Jesus. Yes, even a small statue depicting the peaceful baby Jesus can be considered a "deadly weapon." That's because under Texas law, anything can be a "deadly weapon" if "in the manner of its use or intended use [it] is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury." VTCA § 1.07(17)(B). With such an expansive definition, plus the fact that the victim suffered a fractured eye socket and cracked cheekbone, it's no wonder that the Court of Appeals in affirmed the conviction finding that the evidence was "legally and factually sufficient" for assault with a deadly weapon. 254 S.W.3d at 590 (Tex. Ct. App. 2008). Though it wasn't a sword he brought, it certainly wasn't peace either.