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May 28, 2008, 12:47 pm

NY OK's Funding for New Law Schools; Buffalo Dean Scratches Head

Posted by Dan Slater



Last month, when the Law Blog covered the law school rankings flap between the folks at U.S. News and the dean of Buffalo law school, which dropped 23 spots in the 2009 rankings, Buffalo's dean, Makau Mutua (pictured), [told us](#) that, as New York's only state law school, he thought it would be prudent for the government to provide the school with more financial support, particularly in light of the rankings fall-off.

New York's legislature — to our great disappointment — must not read the Law Blog. Rather than funnel money to Dean Mutua, New York has reportedly approved funds to study proposals for three new law schools in New York State. [Here's](#) the story from the NYLJ.

According to the piece, the NY legislature included in the budget, which was passed in early April — around the same time the 2009 U.S. News ranking [came out](#) — money for two feasibility studies: \$3 million for the State University at Binghamton and \$2.25 million for St. John Fisher College, a Catholic school near Rochester. Additionally, it provided \$250,000 for “planning” of a law school at SUNY Stony Brook - to cover expenses such as approvals by the New York State Department of Education and the Board of Regents and accreditation by the ABA. Finally, the legislature earmarked \$45 million for a Stony Brook law school building should one be required.

Proponents of the plan argue that more law school would expand applicants' options and boost economic development, while critics, like Dean Mutua wonder what the heck is going on.

“This came out of left field, completely unanticipated and unexpected,” said Dean Mutua to the NYLJ. “You would think that when a plan of this magnitude is afoot, the relevant state officials would consult with those of us who have expertise.” He was particularly irked by the public funding for St. John Fisher, the private Catholic college. “It is very, very surprising that state dollars would be used to support establishment of a private law school at a private college. It's simply bad public policy,” he told the NYLJ. “The only public law school in the SUNY system is Buffalo Law - and we're underfunded.”

“It's pretty silly,” added Dean Thomas F. Guernsey of Albany Law School. “The demand isn't there nationally, and clearly it's not in the state of New York.”

But Kenneth P. LaValle, a Republican from Port Jefferson, Long Island, and the chairman of the state Senate's Higher Education Committee, disagreed with Mutua and Guernsey. LaValle, who secured the funding for Stony Brook, said law schools do more than just churn out lawyers. For example, nearly all of the schools have established legal clinics staffed by students and supervised by their professors that benefit low-income people.

LB Readers, take it away.

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We definitely need lots of new law schools. More lawyers will mean lower prices, which will benefit consumers.

Comment by Anonymous - May 28, 2008 at [12:50 pm](#)

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The Wall Street Journal's Law Blog focuses on law and business, and the business of law. Dan Slater is the lead writer. Dan joined The Wall Street Journal from The Deal magazine. Before becoming a journalist, Dan worked as a litigator at a New York law firm. The blog's founding writer was Peter Lattman, who now covers private equity for the Journal.

The Law Blog also includes contributions from reporters and editors at the Journal and Dow Jones Newswires. Have a comment or tip? Write to lawblog@wsj.com.

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This is horrible...there are already too many lawyers saturating the market...especially in NY...why not buy a private school or heaven forbid have the ABA step in and do something about the overwhelming number of out-of-work/underworked new attorneys saddled with \$100k + in debt. Quality students will go T14 or for the biggest \$\$\$ offer, mommy and daddys money will go to the best privste school they can get in to...and the rest will wind up at these new diploma-mills where all but the top students will wind up doing ID or worse for years. This is out of hand. I know these blogs typically devolve in to "TTT" rants and pathetic bikering but as a new attorney from a Top 50 school I see how hard it is with only \$75k in debt...what is it like with twice that from a third tier?

Comment by Sam - May 28, 2008 at [1:10 pm](#)

Total waste of tax payer money. NYS is the most dysfunctional state government in the nation.

Comment by anonymous - May 28, 2008 at [1:19 pm](#)

Just what we need, more terrible, terrible law schools. I've said it before I'll say it again, there should not be more than 50 law schools - any more than that and you will have thousands of L2L's - marginal lawyers saddled with unimaginable debt.

Comment by AnonYI - May 28, 2008 at [1:22 pm](#)

"For example, nearly all of the schools have established legal clinics staffed by students and supervised by their professors that benefit low-income people."

And once those students graduate, they become low-income people who feed the clinics. And the circle of life continues.

Comment by Anonymous - May 28, 2008 at [1:24 pm](#)

Justifying the public funding for new law schools for which there does not appear to be significant demand as a means for providing low cost legal services to the underprivileged is laughable. If the legislature really wants to provide low cost / free legal services to those who need them, it should fund those services directly. Unpaid 1Ls are not a substitute for qualified and experienced practitioners.

Comment by exlawyer - May 28, 2008 at [1:28 pm](#)

We just need to keep banging the drum, that law school is a crippling financial decision for most of the young people attending now. There is no need for another law school anywhere in the US, perhaps in India where US legal work is booming.

If there is a silver lining to this, perhaps these new schools will put the over priced 3rd & 4th tier private law schools in the greater NYC area out of business.

Comment by students need to stop going - May 28, 2008 at [1:29 pm](#)

NYS needs more law schools like George W needs another term in office. This is insane. Rearrange and add a few letters and it's asinine as well.

Comment by Follow the yellow brick road... - May 28, 2008 at [1:31 pm](#)

I see no reason why NY shouldn't have more law schools and fund schools properly and attract better teachers to come to NY.

California. e.g., has done a great job with its state law schools and NY should compete with that.

Comment by Anonie - May 28, 2008 at [1:39 pm](#)

people already bitching about too many lawyers, now they want to flood NY with more lawyers with low costs state funded schools. Wankers

Comment by stupid stupid stupid - May 28, 2008 at [1:45 pm](#)

Stupid idea as there are far more law schools than there are jobs for lawyers.

But . . . Stonybrook really does need a law school. They have a top 10 (nationally top 10!) Pol Sci department.

Comment by anon - May 28, 2008 at [1:47 pm](#)

try cutting some taxes instead of thinking about ways to waste our money. ediiiois

Comment by NY is on crack - May 28, 2008 at [1:48 pm](#)

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I guess the state must have done a needs study and determined that the state's existing law schools are not pumping out enough lawyers. And the state budget must be flush with money in these economic boom times such that we can afford to subsidize this. Otherwise why would Mr. Lavallo be supporting this?

Facebook -- share an item with users of Facebook, a collection of school, company and regional social networks. For more about Facebook, click [here](#).

Comment by Impeach Kenneth Lavallo R-Port Jefferson - May 28, 2008 at [1:52 pm](#)

This would be fine if the ABA & the Licensing Authorities made a serious attempt to make Law Schools real professional training centers. By that I mean that they create a system where all students in all law schools have a likely job when they graduate, much as doctors & nurses do. The lower tier schools & lower ranked students in top tier schools should not merely be used as filler in a system to provide someone to be superior to. (A clumsy sentence, but we all know what I mean.)

I am not Loyola 2L, or whatever his moniker was, and have no personal ax to grind. (I was in the top quarter of a top 10 school.) However, it's a blight on the profession to have so many unemployable lawyers floating around the edges of the work world through no fault of their own. Having honestly been trained to contribute services that are needed, they can't make a realistic living because of poor pay in non-biglaw practice, bad placement services, and/or the enormous debt they incurred due to the false promises of admissions offices.

Any law school that can't place a majority of its students in a professional position (perhaps even with low pay) within 90 days of their graduation should be put on probation and lose its accreditation if it fails this standard for 2 out of three years.

It's to the good that there are more educational possibilities in NY outside of the Metro area, but, it's irresponsible to students and taxpayers to contribute to the glut of unemployable victims of the legal training racket.

Comment by School's Out - May 28, 2008 at [1:54 pm](#)

wow, Follow, way to turn this into a Bush-bash! I almost wondered if it could be done...

Comment by to 1:31 - May 28, 2008 at [1:57 pm](#)

aw, I miss Loyola 2L

Comment by speaking of... - May 28, 2008 at [1:58 pm](#)

To Lavallo's point that, in addition to churning out lawyers, law schools also sometimes have clinics. Okay. But with the state dropping \$45 million for Stony Brook, and ongoing taxpayer funding of operating costs each year, isn't there a more cost-effective way of establishing a legal clinic.

Come on, WSJ, why hasn't your editorial board made this your cause? Is there an easier "wasteful spending" to go after in the state budget? Is it because big-spending, pork barrel Lavallo is a Republican?

Comment by How much does a legal clinic cost? - May 28, 2008 at [2:00 pm](#)

Somebody must be trained to sue all the deal makers and issuers of sub prime loans in NY. In my neighborhood there is a young lawyer living with his mother because he does not earn enough to support himself

Comment by We need more lawyers - May 28, 2008 at [2:01 pm](#)

California has two premier public law schools (Cal and UCLA). New York should have at least one public law school in the top 20 US News ranking. Because New York is not providing Buffalo Law with enough funding to sit in the top 20, they should not dilute law school funding by adding additional public law schools.

The demand is not for more law schools, but for one tier one public in New York.

Comment by Faucethead - May 28, 2008 at [2:03 pm](#)

The NYS Senate may very well lose its Republican majority this fall. They are only 2 seats away from losing their slim majority. It's hair brained, pork barrel ideas like this that are going to cost the Republicans their place in NYS government. Everyone should write Lavallo and inform him of what an awful idea this is.

Comment by Anon - May 28, 2008 at [2:18 pm](#)

The fact that this is catching Dean Mutua by surprise speaks volumes about Buffalo. This has been an open issue for a while now, and I've been getting fundraising calls and letters for months. He may not have been directly privy to them, but it hasn't been hidden.

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Everyone complaining about too many lawyers saddled with too much debt while simultaneously decrying this plan is seriously short sighted.

Binghamton, at least, would be a state school with presumably lower tuition in an area with a decidedly low cost standard of living - it's providing a solution to the exact problem you're whining about. The fact that New York doesn't have a competitive public law school is something that should be remedied.

Buffalo is never really going to be more than it is, but Binghamton has a lot more alumni who ended up working prominently within NYC, and provides a far better network, already built in to NY Biglaw.

Binghamton is top notch for undergrad, even if it is simply a factory churning out accountants. While it may not be elite out of the gate as a law school, New York deserves another reasonable option for residents who want to study law, but don't want to (or couldn't) sell their souls to BigLaw to pay back their loans.

If done right, there's no reason to believe that it couldn't evolve into a good regional school, given the resources, alumni base and administration.

Comment by BingoAlum - May 28, 2008 at [2:27 pm](#)

Why another law school in NY? It's obviously not about needing more lawyers; it's about doing what liberal government does best: build the liberal bureaucracy with your taxpayer dollars. Don't believe it? Just look at the voting patterns around any state capital city, state university or Washington after an election; the vote is overwhelmingly for the Democrat and/or liberal candidates. More university professors means more votes and power for the Dem/Lib party. That power manifests itself in a double-barreled way; by taking more taxpayer money more control is exercised over the taxpayer and by handing out that money control is exercised over the recipients.

Cops, firemen, teachers, social workers, professors, street department employees and a myriad of other people in publicly funded positions are all government. Government is not some far-away all wise entity which hands down infallible edicts to the governed. GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS ITS BIGGEST CONSTITUENCY; it can NEVER get enough of itself.

Politicians, in conjunction with the bureaucracy, backed by a complicit media with always have a heart-rending story to bamboozle the public into believing that unless an enlarged or new entity (more government bureaucracy) is created "the children will suffer," "the infirmed and elderly will be denied their constitutional rights," and "the poor and minorities will be disenfranchised, discriminated against, and/or die," "polar bears will become extinct," and a host of other terrorizing scenarios.

An important facet of continuing to build the bureaucracy is recruitment of youth by brainwashing impressionable young minds in government controlled thought factories known as public schools and colleges. Note students are bestowed the title of "thinkers" when they parrot back their liberal professors' ideology in what they "think" is a new philosophy. That's why so many college grads are liberals; in fact, they have been programmed and are being used to further the growth of what's killing them. Ironically a perfect example is more NY State law schools.

The ONLY way you, the governed, can stop this monster is by starving it; stopping its ever-increasing appetite for your tax dollars. Fight big government at every tax appropriation measure; it's more than your money, it's your freedom.

Catch & Release Report: as of 8:00 am, 5/28/08; 141 trout.

Comment by Tom Collins, Collinsville, CT - May 28, 2008 at [2:29 pm](#)

Is anybody running against Sen. Lavalle this year? Perhaps we could take up a collection to fund a worthy opponent.

Comment by Anybody? - May 28, 2008 at [2:36 pm](#)

The last thing we need is more law school lying to poor innocent children all while stealing their futures. NY will rue the day it adds another dream crusher.

Comment by Loyola 2L - May 28, 2008 at [2:40 pm](#)

Exactly what resources is BingoAlum referring to? Do you seriously think that the NYS Legislature will adequately fund two law schools when it is not adequately funding one? Binghamton has more alumni "already built in to NY Biglaw"? How and when did this happen? You mean people who graduated from Binghamton and went to Ivy League law schools? And these people are going to support a start up school in Binghamton and convince their partners to hire its graduates? Really? By contrast, Buffalo Law actually has its own alumni/ae in major New York City law firms. They hire Buffalo graduates and support their school. But, when a school is saddled with an artificially low tuition and no inadequate state support, there is no way to compete with those private and public schools who have more robust funding through either tuition and/or public support. The matter is far

more complex than you make it out to be, but at its heart, there is a need for resources. Binghamton will not get that support, and it will be dead on arrival. A poorly funded start up which is forced to accept less qualified students will not find much support from major firms, even among partners who graduated from its undergraduate college. Your analysis should be a little sharper, less glib and far better informed before you accuse others of being short sighted.

Comment by BuffAlum - May 28, 2008 at [2:46 pm](#)

No, No, No, No...thank god I discontinued my ABA membership. Absolute disaster. This notion that churning out more JD's will help increase access to legal services to the poor, (at the financial detriment of the lawyer), is so stupidly dishonest that the ABA president and his tamers from the law schools should step down in disgrace at the disaster they are perpetuating. Let me guess, these three new schools will also charge the same as Harvard while the grads get the satisfaction of helping the poor while struggling to live while paying off \$130,000 of student loan debt. Why doesn't the ABA mandate that these toilet JD mills lower their tuition and then maybe the attorneys can help the poor and not sustain a huge financial burden.

I smell an establishment clause lawsuit for the private catholic university receiving state funds. Wonder hoe much more that will cost to litigate.

Comment by Oh Crickey - May 28, 2008 at [2:49 pm](#)

Okay, these staet schools will not charge as much as T-1, just 2/3's of it.

Comment by Oh Crickey - May 28, 2008 at [2:53 pm](#)

"Is anybody running against Sen. Lavalle this year? Perhaps we could take up a collection to fund a worthy opponent."

I think Lavalle is a pretty well embedded senator. His neighboring district however, is a swing district. Popular Long Island democrat politician Brian Foley just announced that he is going to take on the 85 year old Republican incumbent in that district. The outcome of that election could very well swing the Senate and cause Lavalle to lose much of his power.

Comment by Anonymous - May 28, 2008 at [2:54 pm](#)

Maybe we should funnel some of those funds to West Baltimore.

Comment by Avon Barksdale - May 28, 2008 at [3:08 pm](#)

Remarkably, the legislature appropriated money for Stony Brook (to purchase Touro Law Center's charter), after Touro's Trustees had rejected Stony Brook's overture.

Comment by Anonymous - May 28, 2008 at [3:34 pm](#)

For the record, Buffalo is NOT the only state law school in NY. CUNY in Queens is also public.

Comment by Anon - May 28, 2008 at [3:39 pm](#)

Buffalo is OK, but it is not attractive enough for those that might want to get a job in the market in which they go to school or who don't want to freeze all winter in a city without the culture and other amenities of a Chicago or a Boston.

Comment by Anonie - May 28, 2008 at [3:40 pm](#)

CUNY Law is part of the CITY of New York University system. It is not part of the State University of New York system. It is a CITY school, not a STATE school. Buffalo Law is the only state law school in NY.

Comment by BuffAlum - May 28, 2008 at [3:48 pm](#)

I graduated from SUNY Binghamton and obtained my law degree from a private 2nd tier NYC law school and feel this is the most asinine idea ever conceived. NY is doing JUST fine with Buffalo and CUNY Queens, we don't need more lawyers flooding an already saturated legal job market. I am just disgusted with DeFleur.

Comment by Binghamton Alum '98 - May 28, 2008 at [4:07 pm](#)

LOL @ government in general

Comment by Sadiq - May 28, 2008 at [4:13 pm](#)

Our society does need more lawyers - lawyers who are willing to work. I went to a T4 school and I found a job working as a lawyer in the public sector. It is a much better job than my undergrad sociology degree would get me (which was waiting tables).

Why do most lawyers feel that they must earn a large salary? I earn a good salary and pay my loans fine. If it wasn't for my T4 school, I would still be waiting tables for the rest of my life. At least I'm helping our society in a job that lawyers on this blog would consider is below them - actually helping people who need it.

People should support better access to education. These measures to increase law school access will assist in bringing more lawyers where we need them - which is not in BIGLAW.

Comment by T4 JD - May 28, 2008 at [4:16 pm](#)

Dean Matua's surprise makes it appear that neither SUNY Central's nor UB's own "professional" lobbyists felt that they had any obligation to tell UB Law what was going on (or that UB Law had its own antennae up). The silence would serve both SUNY Central and the University bureaucracies well - by currying favor with the chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee (supporting Stony Brook) and a Senator mentioned as a future Majority Leader (supporting Binghamton). It's Rocky putting a state campus in every back yard all over again - a strategy that, while politically astute, has left SUNY in the production of high quality education far below California, Texas, Ohio, Virginia, Georgia, Florida ...

Comment by Anonymous - May 28, 2008 at [4:16 pm](#)

Hi, Joan King!

Comment by anonymous - May 28, 2008 at [4:17 pm](#)

Will this become the Elliott Spitzer School of Law and Public Policy?

Comment by robert thorn - May 28, 2008 at [4:41 pm](#)

BuffAlum,

No need to get into a pissing match, but yes, hate to break it to you, Binghamton does have a built in network that is far more NYC-centric than Buffalo. I've worked at two BigLaw firms, and with countless others, and Binghamton's undergrads-turned-lawyers have a much higher penetration than Buffalo, and especially a higher percentage than B-Law alums.

But it goes beyond that, and includes fundraising amongst alumni donors and (sadly) corporate sponsors, which Binghamton's administration has proven quite adept at. I don't think I've heard deFleur crying to the WSJ about underfunding lately. :-)

Getting a fresh law school up to par is a daunting task, and by no means is it a given that it will succeed. But Binghamton has a lot going for it that gives it a fighting shot. Why anybody would knee-jerk and say it's a bad idea right off the bat is unfathomable to me.

Comment by BingoAlum - May 28, 2008 at [4:52 pm](#)

There will be years before a new law school is even accredited. I am not seeing a large body of unfilled legal jobs in any of these proposed new locations. I agree with the contention that these areas may need legal aid clinics and that the influx of law students and faculty will, in the short term, slightly boost the economies of those municipalities where they are situated. The presence of more people studying law and supporting that activity is simply not sufficient stimulus to generate income-earning legal jobs (as opposed to the pro bono clinic denisons). If these guys want to stimulate economic development, they would be best off putting money into small business incubators and/or institutions producing folks which are in short supply in this economy- like nurses,I believe. All I know is that, as a legal recruiter in New York, I can't even place law review honors graduates of places like Touro law school. Graduates of a new, unaccredited law school are likely to find themselves fighting at the bottom of the market working as overeducated paralegals and other legalish professionals way at the bottom of the food chain. Why someone would want to go to law school with that likely outcome is simply beyond me. And, if we are talking about Long Island, high cost of living and housing costs mean training oneself for these low income legal jobs is a particularly poor investment of time and money.

Comment by Talent Scout - May 28, 2008 at [5:15 pm](#)

What is happening now in law will soon affect other sectors of the "service" economy. Economically, the law is a "secondary" profession; like government, by itself it generates nothing. Someone has to provide services to others from which income is derived before that money can be saved, invested, or used for legal or medical services. Who in New York is providing that income generating activity? Who in the United States is providing that income generating activity? Hint: take a look at the foreign trade deficit breakdown in the World Almanac. Why start a law school? Cash flow. High (relatively) tuition, potential alumni revenue growth, and now, with WestLaw & Lexis - no need to build a library.

Comment by Anonymous - May 28, 2008 at [5:46 pm](#)

I think this is great news! I hope we build enough law schools to ensure that no liberal law professor

ever goes hungry again! Non-workers of the Academy, unite!!

Comment by Joe Herrick - May 28, 2008 at [8:04 pm](#)

this is outrageous, shame on New York's legislature, I am outraged that my tax dollars will be wasted like this. Outraged...

Comment by Anonymous - May 28, 2008 at [9:41 pm](#)

Aren't there already enough JDs without law jobs? Aren't taxes in NY already ridiculously high?

Looks like I'm saying what all the other commenters wrote. I guess that left wing people who support dumb ideas like this don't read this blog.

Comment by Half Sigma - May 28, 2008 at [11:11 pm](#)

Pay attention Half Sigma. This is a pork barrel project, not a left wing one. The principal sponsor is a conservative Republican legislator. Perhaps you could work on your reading skills as well.

Comment by Full Sigma - May 28, 2008 at [11:34 pm](#)

Sorry for the bit off-topic post here mates. Thought this was interesting. Or is only the Americans are blind to things?

Finally someone more loyal to values, morals, honesty and integrity than to their political stripe. Their is honor in doing the right thing, Mr. McClellan.

So now, the war is both "largely about oil" and "largely about lies". No kidding. The two go together like a lame duck to water. The truth is a lives saver. Hello?

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article4023298.ece

May 29, 2008

Scott McClennan accuses Bush White House of deceit over Iraq invasion

President Bush veered "terribly off course" and pursued an aggressive "propaganda campaign" which obscured the truth in selling the Iraq war to the American public, according to his former White House press secretary.

Comment by London Bridge - May 29, 2008 at [2:09 am](#)

In a new book, Scott McClennan said the likely verdict of history would be that "the decision to invade Iraq was a serious strategic blunder", adding: "War should only be waged when necessary, and the Iraq war was not necessary."

He accused Mr Bush of managing "the crisis in a way that almost guaranteed that the use of force would become the only feasible option" — while also failing to be "open and forthright" about the reasons for military action.

Comment by London Bridge - May 29, 2008 at [2:10 am](#)

What a crazy idea!! There are tons of lawyers already out there and many struggling to get a decent job! Do these people trying to start new law schools realize what they are doing? It took me 7 months to find a job paying me \$45,000! I BET they make a heck of a lot more than what I'm making so what do they care?

Comment by Is this for real? - May 29, 2008 at [7:47 am](#)

I think it's a GREAT idea — so long as they locate the school in a suburb of Albany!!

Comment by chubbz the delinquent - May 29, 2008 at [8:44 am](#)

Law professors make 100k to 160k per year for about 20 hrs per week of work for about 32 wks per yr.

Comment by Tom Collins - May 29, 2008 at [8:55 am](#)

BuffAlum, gimme a break. SUNY, CUNY, does it matter? The funding still comes from the state. Ergo, STATE (= PUBLIC) school.

Comment by Anon - May 29, 2008 at [9:10 am](#)

It looks like Kenneth LaValle is fishing for votes again. Don't Lead, don't legislate just give the states money away on frivolous projects. Stony Brook hospital got mucho state funding and put all the

area hospitals out of business. Now They're gonig to go after the law schools in the region.

Comment by Charlie, former New Yorker - May 29, 2008 at [10:03 am](#)

"Maybe we should funnel some of those funds to West Baltimore.

Comment by Avon Barksdale - May 28, 2008 at 3:08 pm"

Right oh, Avon! Look at U Baltimore alum Major Daniels...he earned a lot more working for the Baltimore City PD than most T3/T4 chumps will ever make doing ID work (or worse)! Just think of how much more successful he would have been with NYS tax dollars enhancing his education! LOL On a serious note, the NYS legislature must be on drugs to even consider *thinking* about this. Aside from officials like Lavalle, who have an obvious pork motive, getting on board with this plan is absolute madness!
If this goes forward, I hope that NY spends a portion of the money on a public service campaign to warn prospective 1L's about their job prospects (it could be similar to the "VD Gets Around" commercials from the 70s and early 80s).

Comment by Shouldn't Have Gone into IRAC - May 29, 2008 at [11:40 am](#)

The refusal to acknowledge the fundamental difference between the two shows a mind finely honed to distinguish among between two clearly different jurisdictional entities. Sure glad the public got its due educating that person. Makes it easier to defend against his or her clinic's clients.

Comment by Anonymous - May 29, 2008 at [1:35 pm](#)

Even Dean Mutua acknowledges that this is a liberal democrat initiative, since he states clearly that "This came out of left field..." Another Dean, Thomas Guernsey (Albany L.S.) at least admits that "The demand isn't there nationally, and clearly it's not in the state of New York." But the pork-slopping RINO from Port Jefferson, Kenneth P. LaValle, disagreed. It is no wonder that Conservatives are dismayed. RINOs are swinging even to the left of the law school leftists. Maybe LaValle is just looking for another cushy job, when he gets booted out of the legislature.

Comment by Americanus - May 29, 2008 at [5:34 pm](#)

UB Law has had its chance. Despite years of subsidies, it has never compared to law schools in the UC system (aren't they opening a new one at Davis? why no hue and cry from Boalt Hall?) A bit of healthy competition might force them to shape up, or thin out.

Comment by Adam Smith - May 29, 2008 at [11:27 pm](#)

Whoops--meant Irvine, not Davis, in my previous post.

Comment by Adam Smith - May 30, 2008 at [8:31 am](#)

Ah, New York. Land of Subsidies. Too bad it never actually listened to one of its purported icons - Jane Jacobs. "[H]eavy and unremitting subsidies are transactions of decline, and once adopted, the need for them grows greater with time and the wherewithal for supplying them grows less."

Comment by Anonymous - May 30, 2008 at [12:02 pm](#)

There are already too many lawyers. New York doesn't need new law schools. It's funny that a Republican was responsible for some of the pork in this one.

Comment by Anon - May 30, 2008 at [8:45 pm](#)

Whenever someone wants to open a new law school, they always spout the same nonsense: "It'll improve access to legal education for minorities who don't want to be saddled with private school debt." If would-be lawyers are at all talented or ambitious, they can get a middling LSAT score and take a scholarship at an existing tier-two school. We don't need cheap state schools because the private schools will pay for good students.

As for stimulating the local economies, the students will only be spending LOANS. They will never get real jobs that enable them to support themselves. So the students will give their borrowed money to enrich local businesses, and pay the professors' salaries. But the students are the ones who get chewed up and spit out by the whole process. Shame on the NYS government. If they really want to help students, they can help improve Buffalo law so it is no longer a joke.

Comment by yahoo seriouso - June 2, 2008 at [3:10 pm](#)

New York government should have to choose either Buffalo or Binghamton. The state is not big enough for two public upstate law schools. Shut down Buffalo and focus on Binghamton, or even better, shut them both down.

Comment by Get in the CHOPPA! - June 2, 2008 at [3:16 pm](#)

It's not *really* about the law school. Binghamton is a dying/dead area, and NYC needs someplace to send kids to become mediocre lawyers. So the left does the only thing it knows to do: create govt funded projects to 'solve' the problem. Now all the sheeple in BGM will be pacified with the thought that the gov't is doing something for them. On top of that is the that all the prospective JD's that would have attended a TTT like Buffalo will not have to drive as far.

Comment by Anonymous - June 3, 2008 at [11:43 am](#)

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