



Capital Law: Nourishing a Culture of Innovation

From 1950 to 1995, the increase in the number of lawyers has tracked with the increase in the number of pages in the federal tax code, according to this week's speaker club member Rich Simpson, who recently became the Dean of Capital University Law School.

Price Finley introduced Simpson, who went on to explain that after 1995, the tax code continued to grow, but the number of lawyers leveled off. Simpson believes this is due to non-

lawyers being able to do some of what lawyers used to, partly due to Internet resources.

Simpson said of his transition that he is very proud of his years at Bricker & Eckler and has dear friends there, but going to Capital was a great opportunity to do something new and be re-energized.



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Notes & Announcements

Dave Hammond announced that his daughter **Julie** had a son, **Dominic**, and that everyone is healthy!

Mike Roth announced the Cincinnati Club will celebrate its centennial with a gala dinner featuring **RI President Klingensmith** on Wednesday, Sept. 15.

Steve Polk reported that it's time to sign up to volunteer at West Broad Elementary. Work begins around Oct. 1.



Joe Valentino reminded everyone that there is an Interact Committee meeting

after the regular club meeting next Tuesday. Joe also reported that the UA Special Olympic softball team is headed to the state championship.

Dee Holcomb thanked those who signed up as greeters.

Bill Mielke announced that \$3,000 was given to the Homeless Families Foundation for a barn (which was 75% built last Saturday by a group of club members) and an enlarged playground area. **Rozanne Landers** expressed the foundation's appreciation and mentioned they are having a fundraiser at Brookside Country Club on Nov. 5.

Rotary Roundtable Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m.
Dr. Jeff Weaver and
Dr. Debbie Binkley
Text Book Selection

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 10:30 a.m.
Dr. Dave Cole: *The Financial Crisis of 2007-2010: A Prospective*

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 10:30 a.m.
John Huneck and Brian Tierney: *AEP/Utilities Topic*

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 10:30 a.m.
Bill Hosket: *OSU Basketball Preview*

Future roundtables will be announced as they are scheduled.



Greeters

September 7
Wendell Ellenwood and Dick Slager

September 14
Tina Redman and Molly Fontana

September 21
Price Finley and Sandy Clary

Registration Desk

September 7
John Hansel and Brandon Smith

September 14
Tom Westfall and Milt Lustnauer

September 21
Ted Foster and Jim McClure

Calendar

September 7
Gene Smith, OSU Athletic Director: An Update on the OSU Athletic Department. Host: Jim Jones

September 14
AEP. Hosts: Brian Tierney and John Huneck

September 21
Professor Peter Mansoor: The War In Afganistan. Host: Brad Frick

Capital Law (continued)

Lawyers help people and organizations resolve disputes and navigate complexities. Simpson said that without lawyers, businesses would collapse and anarchy would occur.

There are slightly fewer law schools per capita today than in the 1970's. Simpson thinks the number of lawyers in the world is directly related to the degree of complexity in the world. The market for college and professional school grads is terrible right now, and it will be for a few more years.

After that, these graduates should have great careers because the world will continue to get more complex, the U.S. population will continue to grow, and baby boomers someday really will retire (or will die). Simpson thinks now is a great time to go to law school for someone with a long-term view.

Capital Law was initially just a night law school. Now it offers both day and night programs, but more and more students opt for the day program. Today, it has about

750 students. The faculty is extremely smart and engaged, and they aren't in it for the money. They also have strong opinions. The world of academics has its own jargon, traditions, and sacred cows, but Simpson has been pleased with his acceptance.

Years ago most lawyers (like Abraham Lincoln) would not go to law school, but instead would read under and apprentice with another lawyer. The case study method (where students study legal decisions) and the Socratic method (where a professor questions students) were developed in the late 1800's and teach students to think like a lawyer. That was the approach when Simpson went to law school. Since then, there has been a move to more experiential programs like clinics and internships. Also, there is a movement to skill training, like how to prepare certain types of legal documents.

Simpson feels he has the chance to have a positive impact on legal education. Change in this area won't be

led by top national law schools, which have little incentive to change. Instead, change will be led by law schools like Capital.

Simpson believes that Capital Law should focus on:

1. Preparing students for the bar exam,
2. Holding down growth in the costs of legal education,
3. Improving practice readiness of its graduates, and
4. Having a culture of innovation at all levels.

Some are suggesting that lawyers should serve as interns before being licensed, which is the case with most other licensed professions. Today, lawyers can be licensed and start practicing with limited practical knowledge and experience. Capital Law insists its students have some basic business training. Simpson believes the bar exam will change so that it does not test for items that lawyers really don't need.

The Meeting

The invocation was offered by **Price Finley**. **Price** also led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Linda Cummins introduced visiting Rotarians: **Rob Snead** (Circleville), **Mike Roth** (Cincinnati), **Mike Rankin** (Columbus Downtown), and **John Gray**

(Columbus Downtown).

Price Finley introduced his guest **Matt Stout**. **Mike Rankin** introduced his guest **Deputy Zach Scott**. **Rich Simpson** introduced his guests from Capital Law School: **David Ball**, **Director of Communications** and **John Strick**,

Assistant Dean. **Mike Drennen** introduced his guest **Lisa Burleson**.

Bob Edler conducted harassment and raised so much money that President Dave wondered whether we will even need a fundraiser!