



## GW, Washington Community Bid Prostic Farewell

BY REBECCA PARKER  
News Editor

Last fall, beaming new mother Elizabeth Prostic sat in Dean DeVigne's office bouncing baby Harper on her lap. Already juggling a high powered position as Managing Director at Sonnenschein, Nath and Rosenthal with law school, philanthropic work, social calendar, a happy marriage and now baby, the two met to tweak Lizzie's 4th year evening schedule.

"She was so excited about having Harper," Dean DeVigne said. "She was really beginning to enjoy infancy and motherhood."

Not about to shirk any of her commitments though, Lizzie found a way to make it all work.

"She was really sick when she was pregnant," said good friend and 4L evening student Rachel Alexander. "But she didn't care at all because it was for the baby. She wasn't about to let it slow her down. She really wanted Harper to see that role model. Lizzie lived loud. Her plan was just to incorporate the baby into that life."

That she did, meeting Harper and husband Mike Lundblad, a Ph.D. candidate at UVA, in the lobby of Sonnenschein's office with a fresh batch of breast milk before popping back upstairs to draft and refine legislative proposals pending hearings before Congress.

In the evenings, Lizzie sat at attention, fully engaged and absorbing everything she could about the law and the reasons for it in the lecture halls at the Law School. But as Dean DeVigne said, "she just wasn't rebounding properly after having the baby."

Tim Powderly, Lizzie's good friend and Van Vleck Moot Court Competition partner, recalls sitting in his office together late at night last October putting the final details into the Constitutional Law brief with his friend, who had been feeling ill for over a month.

Within a week of that meeting, Lizzie received an unfathomable diagnosis; she was suffering from stage IV metastatic breast cancer, meaning the disease had already begun to spread.

Despite an unwavering optimism and refusal to accept defeat, Elizabeth Prostic's hard fought battle ended March 31, leaving behind a city of sad faces struggling to contemplate the loss of a woman who lived the words she uttered to her daughter: "I want you to be a strong, independent, powerful woman; as well as happy and fulfilled."

"No one else in D.C. knew what was going on but Lizzie," said Elliot Portnoy, a partner at Sonnenschein, as he recounted the day she heard of some major meetings at the FCC.

"She was able, through her political and legislative relationships to get word on a hugely important set of negotiations and

shared that with an important client," he said. "She gave information and insights that no one else on the team, and probably no one else in D.C. could give and with an incredible fluency of the issues."

Portnoy hired Lizzie in April of 2004 – at eight months pregnant and sans J.D. – as a Managing Director of the law

firm working with the Public Law and Policy Strategies and the Information Security and Internet Enforcement Groups when she chose to move out of the public sector.

"As soon as I met her I was ready to hire her on the spot," he remembers. "She was someone who you met and you just wanted to be

around. She was dynamic, engaging, poised, really captivating."

Growing up in Kansas City, Lizzie was a dancer, a singer, a tap instructor, and a musical actor. She was a cheerleader and popular school girl who, according to Mike, didn't always share Dad's political fervor when he tried to get a debate going at the dinner table.

At the University of Pennsylvania, however, Lizzie's interests began to shift.

See PROSTIC page 5



Elizabeth Prostic and daughter Harper. Courtesy Mike Prostic

## Military Appeals Court Hears Arguments at Law School

BY STEVEN OBERT  
Special to the Nota Bene

The United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces heard oral arguments for *United States v. Garlick* on Tuesday, April 12 in the Moot Courtroom. The case was from a ruling by the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals in favor of the government.

The court normally hears arguments in its Judiciary Square courthouse, but came to the Law School as part of "Project Outreach," a program designed to introduce law students to the functions of the court. Since Project Outreach began over ten years ago, the court has been hosted by many different law schools and service academies throughout the country.

"This program gives us the opportunity to come to various law schools and show them what the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and military law in general, is all about," Chief Judge H.F. "Sparky" Gierke said. "This in not the first time we've come to GW."

The argument drew many interested members of the Law School community. There were over fifty students in attendance, as well as several professors and administrators. After the argument, the five judges fielded several questions from the audience about various issues pertaining to the court.

At issue in *United States v. Garlick* was whether a criminal defendant's due process rights were violated by the prosecution's failure to disclose discoverable information prior to trial.

Senior Airman Garlick pleaded guilty to possession of visual depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The appellant contended that this plea was based on an FBI agent's finding that all members of a particular Yahoo E-group, to which the appellant belonged, received emails containing such depictions.

Seven days after his plea was entered, the appellant learned of a factual inaccuracy in the agent's investigation. This information, the appellant contended, would have caused him to change his plea. Whether his due process rights were violated is now a matter for the court to decide.

The question and answer period

See MILITARY page 8

## Senator Reid to Address Graduation Ceremony

BY YUTA USUDA  
Staff Writer

This year's commencement will embrace both new features and, as speaker, a George Washington Law graduate who is now a major American political figure.

About 550 students of The George Washington University Law School will celebrate the completion of their law degree programs on May 22. According to the Record's Office, about 450 graduating students are J.D.'s and the other 100 are L.L.M.'s. Interim Dean Roger Transgrud congratulated their achievement last week.

"I think it is very fitting and appropriate that our J.D. and L.L.M. students graduate together since many of them

have studied together in various classes while they were students here," he said in an e-mail. "As for their future career plans, I trust they will follow their own dreams and pursue careers which will bring honor to them, to their families, and to their alma mater."

Thomas Morrison, senior associate dean of administrative affairs, shared a similar sentiment. "I'm exceptionally proud of this Class of 2005 because of what they have accomplished while they were at law school," he said. "I'm proud of the opportunities they have ahead. I think the record number of judicial clerkships is a good indication of how smart they are and how willing they are to dive into the law community."

While the Law School traditionally

holds its own graduation ceremony over Memorial Day weekend, this year's commencement will take place with the entire university. One of the school's goals this year was to have a "united graduation celebration," Morrison said. The shift of the semester schedule from fourteen weeks to thirteen facilitated the earlier date, he added.

Graduates, arriving at the Ellipse between the South Lawn and the White House, are to join the academic procession at 9:30 a.m. The George Washington University Commencement Ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. A class photo will be taken at noon and the Class of 2005 will continue to the Law School diploma

See COMMENCEMENT page 8

### News

Anarchy - page 2

Student Organization

Year Highlights - page 3

EJF Auction - page 4

Moot Court - page 6

### Features

Sexless in the City - page 14

Post Hoc, Ergo Propter Hoc  
- page 11

### Opinions

Right Answer - page 15

Meet the New Boss  
- page 15

## NEWS

## PROSTIC from page 1.

Though she remained active in musical theater during college, Lizzie's majors, Diplomatic History and Political Science, sparked a passionate desire to enact change.

"When I first met Lizzie I wanted to live in a tree in the mountains somewhere," Mike said in a eulogy he delivered at the Temple Rodef Shalom on April 3rd. "But she very much wanted to engineer or at least strategize for all of America."

Working her way into politics, Lizzie took positions after college as an Assistant to the Director of Official Proceedings for the 1996 Republican National Convention and a staff assistant for Senator John McCain (R-AZ).

Even without substantial political experience, Lizzie made her talents known to her colleagues.

"I first met Elizabeth when she came to work for me on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation," Senator McCain said in an email. "She was a very smart, capable, and tenacious young professional—someone who was always looking for another challenge—never one to just sit back. While her life was brief in years, it was long on accomplishments and contributions and I am lucky to have known her."

In practically no time, she became a Professional Staffer for the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation chaired by McCain where the then 24 year-old recent college grad shared a job title with a room full of lawyers and engineers.

Lizzie also staffed for now Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN), then Chairman of the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space.

"Elizabeth had an unyielding drive and commitment to whatever she put her mind to," Senator Frist said in an email. "She had a focused intellect that kept us all on track. During her tenure at the Senate Commerce Committee, I relied totally on her expertise in handling the complex issues before the Subcommittee I chaired at that time. I will forever cherish Elizabeth's

warmth, her optimism, her infectious energy, and pure heart. I know her spirit will live on in her daughter Harper."

For the 2000 presidential race, Lizzie volunteered with Senator McCain's primary campaign, so her hire by the victorious Bush administration as a Senior Policy Advisor and later appointment as Chief Privacy Officer at the Department of Commerce was somewhat unusual.

"She just had this amazing ability to listen," Mike said, noting that Lizzie charmed conservatives and liberals—like himself—alike. "She was able to understand where people were coming from, and she was interested in new points of view. She didn't always have her mind made up in advance."

Once she did, however, her persistence and drive was apparent to all those around her.

In the fall of 2001, Lizzie decided to add law student to her already lengthy list of credentials and immediately made an impression on professors and classmates.

Rachel Alexander laughingly recalls Lizzie's charming professionalism during the first week of classes when she arrived

on day three to find another student sitting in her seat.

"She just walked right up and said 'I'm sorry that's my seat' with this big beautiful smile on her face. The poor guy who was sitting there stammered something about how the charts hadn't been passed out but she just stood there and cocked her head a little with a smile. He had no idea what to do; she was very intense and assertive."

Perhaps more than her poise and charm, Lizzie's comments and questions have stuck with her colleagues.

"She was very bright," Rachel said. "She didn't speak a lot in class, but when she did it was one of those bright, poignant comments that made you think 'whoa, why didn't I think of that?'"

Tim Powderly jokingly recalls the partisan banter he engaged with Ms. Prostic—as he knew her then—in first year Property class. "This law school is full of smart people who do or have done interesting things, but I've never met anyone who'd done as much as she," Tim said. "She operated in the highest level of the Federal Government and she commanded the respect of everyone who she met, including Democrats. Not only was she fun to chat with, but you get to work with the best."

Lizzie's professional experiences not only informed fellow students, but also professors, including Professor Rosen, with whom Lizzie coincidentally found herself presenting a panel discussion on privacy law.

"In Criminal Procedure I really had the pleasure of getting to know her," Professor Rosen said. "At the time, she was working as Chief Privacy Officer at the DOC—an important and extremely interesting job. She taught the class so much about

privacy law in its statutory application. It was one of those lucky coincidences because she brought such a unique perspective to the classroom."

With Professor Schooner, Lizzie shared her interest in government contracting, as well as quite a few friends in the Executive branch.

"She was truly a Washington insider," he said. "She knew a lot of people, she was fearless and in her own way very aggressive."

"At some level she was just engaged, and very high energy. In an evening class where you have 100 plus people in a room, the lion's share are not coming down to speak with the professor. She'd come down though and talk to me about current events, major policy issues or major political issues she thought I might have a stake in."

Lizzie's passion for dissecting the intricacies of the law ran so deep that she didn't even check her grades until her 4th semester in school. That insatiable interest continued even after she fell ill. Dean DeVigne and Professor Roth arranged for a class to be taped this semester so Lizzie could keep up from home.

"She had to focus her energy on her health," Dean DeVigne said. "But her spirit didn't change one wit. I find it remarkable that as much as she was battling, she remained amazingly upbeat and determined to win."

For her efforts, Deans DeVigne and Transgrud have recommended that Lizzie be awarded a post-humous J.D. at the upcoming graduation ceremony.

Underneath a poised and professional exterior, friends say, was a witty conversationalist, an effortless fashionista, a giggly girlfriend, and an adoring wife.

After Lizzie's memorial service on April 3rd, three GW Law ladies: Rachel Alexander, Nissa Copemann and Erin Fishman, gathered at Kinkead's for crab cakes, Eschelon Pinot Noir, and a moment to reflect on their fourth—or really their first.

"We really feel as though she chose us and brought us together," Rachel said. "We're all so different, and when we looked back we realized Lizzie was the reason we all started talking. Usually people seek out friends who are like themselves, Lizzie wasn't that way. It was always interesting, four of us, four different points of view. She believed that from that we learned and grew the most, both personally and professionally. I think she was right."

While the three sat sipping one of Lizzie's favorite wines, the waiter, who hadn't seen the full foursome for well over a year asked where their friend was.

"He actually remembered her," Rachel said. "She was so sweet and pretty, she probably said or did something sweet to him at some point. She had a knack for that, even if she only had time to say 10 words to someone those 10 words would be really meaningful."

Tim bought red shoes for graduation, a nod he and the girls will give to one of Lizzie's signature wardrobe staples—aside from the big double strand pearls that Rachel says she even wore camping.

"She loved to be a little sassy sometimes," Rachel said. "When you looked at her she seemed so conservative and predictable. She lived to get into her Prada suit with her gorgeous pearls and her gorgeous diamond and sapphire engagement ring and throw on a pair of red pumps."

"One of her essential qualities was that style and finesse but it wasn't anything more than who she was. She had no problem going camping with Mike. She didn't own jeans though, she saw no reason to. In some ways she was so old fashioned, but

in others, just thoroughly modern."

In another nod, SBA President Eric Koester purchased yellow wristbands from the Lance Armstrong Foundation to distribute to graduating seniors in a showing of solidarity for Lizzie. Lance Armstrong's motto, Live Strong, was thoroughly embodied by Lizzie's efforts toward recovery.

"Living Strong, I know it's not original, but it just applies so beautifully to Lizzie and to her life," said close friend Erin Fishman, who has raised over 32,000 dollars for the Avon Breast Cancer walk taking place April 30—May 1st. "Live Strong, be loud, wear red shoes, just be bold."

The girls talked about Lizzie's love for girl time, curling up in bed to talk about shoes and haircuts. "She could have been on Crossfire, but she was addicted to The Bachelorette," Rachel joked.

Lizzie loved to talk through boy problems, helping both Rachel and Erin work through big relationship crises, probably because she wanted friends to know the joy that she felt from her own.

Mike talks about the partisan divide that could not divide them noting in his eulogy: "[S]he wanted to know my mind, and our minds both yearned to make things better in the world, even if our politics didn't seem to match. We chose our own ways to effect change, but we understood each other. We were outspoken and strong together. We married our minds, our passions, our futures, and we planned to grow old and gray together."

"She was so funny about Mike; they were so different," Erin said. "But she just loved him so much. She used to joke that she had to put a 12 piece Nalgene set on her wedding registry. They were just one of those amazing power couples, to be around them it was like 'you guys rock, you have such a cool relationship.' Their love for each other was so evident, it was just infectious."

"It's a horrible thing to have to be eulogizing someone who's your best friend and wife at this age," Mike said.

In the wake of his loss, Mike is working to start a new foundation and website to help metastatic cancer survivors and their caregivers. The idea, one that

Mike and Lizzie discussed during her treatment, is to provide a common ground for people who are fighting cancer in its nastiest form, where people can share stories, suggestions, and motivations to keep fighting.

Though metacancer.org is still in the planning stages, Mike hopes to use art, poetry, painting, and other imagery to encourage reflection and build resolve.

"It seems, to me at least, that there is nothing out there like this," he said. "Lizzie was frustrated and wanted to know 'how come I can't find any stories of metastatic cancer survivors?' I feel like for me it's a way of continuing to honor the spirit of my wife."

Lizzie Prostic's passing has left a heaviness in many hearts and an emptiness in many places. Said Secretary of Energy and former co-worker Sam Bodman: "We will miss an extraordinary friend now and in the future. We all must commit to live up to the standards that Lizzie set. That is the only way we can displace the pain and help make more worthwhile her extraordinary life." ■



Elizabeth, Harper and Mike.

Courtesy Mike Prostic



Courtesy Mike Prostic