July 2012
To: Incoming Torts Students – Goldberg Section  
From: Professor Goldberg  
Re: Preparation for Classes: Books and TWEN (About Your Torts Course, Syllabus, Briefing Cases)

Congratulations on coming to law school. As a profession designed to serve the public, law demands the most meticulous preparation for those who aspire to serve. I hope you will find the experience elevating, rigorous, and enjoyable. Law school begins with your first Torts class – 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 21.

The first six Torts classes of the semester (August 21-23) are of singular importance. They will help you to develop a broad understanding of the shape and the processes of the American legal system – an understanding critical to your ability to learn not only Torts, but all of your law school subjects. The text for those classes is Professor John Humbach’s WHOSE MONET? AN INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM. It is available in paperback from the Pace Law School Campus Store in Aloysia Hall (http://pacelaw.bncollege.com) and at several on-line bookstores.

Read all of WHOSE MONET? before arriving at school. Read it as you would read a novel to gain an overall understanding. Look up words you don’t know, but when something seems very puzzling, just move on. You are not reading for detail, but rather, for the main ideas: 1) the roles of lawyers in the legal process; 2) the basic structure of the legal system; 3) the place of the courts in our governmental structure; 4) the way lawyers work with legal sources; and 5) the principal steps in the lawsuits that produce judges’ opinions. The last is especially important. Much of law school involves reading judicial opinions, and understanding the principal steps in a lawsuit is essential to understanding those opinions.

Three documents posted on the Torts TWEN website will help you to approach and be prepared for your Torts classes: 1) About Your Torts Course; 2) the Torts Syllabus; and 3) Briefing Cases. Be sure to read them before attending the first class.

Your orientation packet contains instruction on how to access your Pace Law School e-mail account and how to get up to speed on TWEN. Be sure to register on the Torts TWEN site with your Pace e-mail account and any other e-mail that you check regularly.

You will be re-reading and working with WHOSE MONET? for the first six classes on your Torts syllabus. If you have read WHOSE MONET? and the documents posted on TWEN before arriving at law school, the assignments for the six class sessions should not take you more than approximately two hours per session. If you have not done that initial reading before arriving at law school, you will find there is not sufficient time to prepare for and participate in Torts.