

The Jim Report

The Jim Report

My Life in Law School

James Reavis

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For Mom and Dad

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The original cover of *The Jim Report* as published by the *Montana Law Review*.

Preface

[The existence of this book is only possible because a small group of wonderful law students orchestrated a campaign to have my writings collected and printed. After hours and hours of editing and fundraising, they created a book using a law review printer. Only 362 copies of that book exist and they are now impossible to find. In homage to that mystical, truly “first edition,” the preface for the limited-run book appears below, unaltered. It is truly amazing that their efforts have resulted in a nationwide publication. —Jim]

As 1Ls we read Scott Turow’s *One L* and watched *The Paper Chase*. While we were entertained with these “the life of a law student” resources, we are not students at Harvard Law School. Thank god. As 1Ls we also, somehow, became subscribers to The Jim Report—a hilarious depiction of our monthly existence as law students at the University of Montana School of Law. By the time we were 2Ls we anxiously awaited 11:59 PM on the last day of the month—we knew therapy, as in laughing until you were crying would soon arrive in our inbox.

Despite the large doses of agony and stress that law school happily provides, The Jim Report always put the experiences in perspective—that law students exist in a warped universe that normal human beings cannot relate to. Jim’s monthly account of his trials and, well, more trials and tribulations always remind us that there is humor in law school . . . and there will be life after law school, even if our grades suck.

While subscriptions to The Jim Report are easily obtained, free, and granted upon request, they remain an underground publication. That is, you had to know about it to get in on the action. The

Jim Report was never advertised and never announced publicly. Hence, we wanted to share The Jim Report with everyone, all at once, and in one place. Those non-subscribers who know the law student Jim from the classroom should know that the author Jim is an entirely different beast.

The “why” of this publication is easy. As we write this, on the last day of January 2010, we anxiously await tonight’s Jim Report—a recount of the start of our last semester as law students and the final installment of this compilation. The *Montana Law Review* published *The Jim Report* as a tribute to the Class of 2010 and because it is too good to keep a secret any longer. As we exit this institution, *The Jim Report* will help us reminisce about the madness that has been the last three years.

As guest editors who took sheer pleasure in this one and only creative project sanctioned by law school, we would like to thank Jim for the memories and the laughs. We will cherish these reports and refer to them for guidance when the madness continues through the Bar Exam. And, let’s be honest, we know it will only increase when and if we finally become new lawyers, wholly susceptible to malpractice.

We would also like to thank the *Montana Law Review* for humoring us by agreeing that *The Jim Report* is the most publish-worthy work of our law school careers. Editors-in-Chief, Randy Tanner and Brian Murphy, have been a pleasure to work with since they never said no and supported all of our insane ideas for this project. Martin Burke, advisor extraordinaire for the *Montana Law Review*, fully supported this project from its inception. He also deserves credit for the title of this special edition, the *Montana Law Review*. Not only is he an avid supporter of the arts in general, but his vote of approval confirms there is always room for imagination, even in law school. We thank him for his vision and brilliance.

Given that the *Public Lands & Resources Law Review* Conference Editor, Melissa Hayes, is responsible for the artwork in this issue, there is no doubt that the on-going, decade-long feud between the *Montana Law Review* and the *Public Lands & Resources Law Review* is still in full effect. For now, the *Montana Law Review* wins! Melissa, Queen-o-Craftiness, deserves 100% credit for the cover artwork

and we remain convinced that her true calling in life is developing a new font—a “cute” legal font. We thank her for defecting to the *Montana Law Review*, if only briefly.

Abby would like to thank the *Montana Law Review* for adopting her as a temporary Guest Editor-in-Chief without making her go through the write-on process. Abby may be the only *Montana Law Review* member that truly believes the *Montana Law Review* is fun!

Helia, #1 fan of Jim’s heart-attack-on-a-plate chocolate chip cookies, knows how to pick partners in crime and to reach out across the arbitrary, non-political aisle to recruit editors and artists for this project. Luckily, the rest of the *Montana Law Review* editors trust her judgment. She is also requiring Jim to wear a bow-tie at the release party.

Last but definitely not least, a big thank you to all of those individuals who wrote a check in support of this publication. Without their help, it is likely that law students, whose financial aid checks ran out a month ago, could not have afforded this compilation of law school stories.

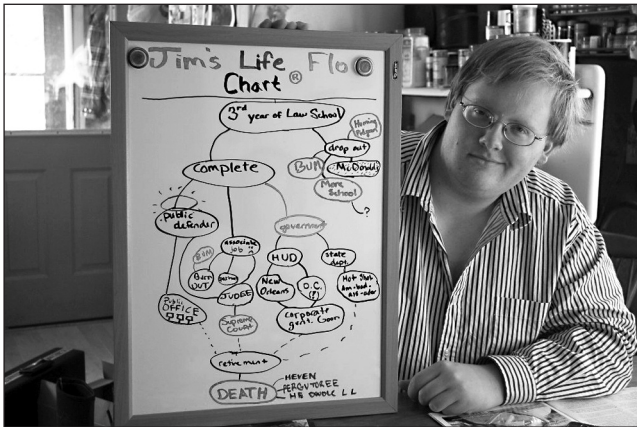
Happy Reading!

Helia Jazayeri & Abby Rivenbark
Guest Editors-in-Chief for the *Montana Law Review*



“Pimp Reavis was willing to spread the love around and spent most his time dancing with the Mormon minister and his five pregnant wives. I should have known that people would be taking pictures.”

—October 2008 Jim Report.



“Mom and Amy were well aware of my irrational future career anxieties and Amy informed me that she would help me create a life flowchart, branching out the various possibilities I could end up going down. And also, because it was a dry erase board, I could change it at whim.”

—September 2009 Jim Report.

Introduction

Being an introduction, it is of the utmost importance that I convince you to keep reading past the first sentence. Having succeeded, I must now get you interested, nay excited, in this unique literary action item and shall do so by putting on a shtick.

What Are The Jim Reports?

The Jim Report is a monthly e-mail that is sent to about a hundred or so of my relatives and friends. Those e-mails have been consolidated into this book. The report began as a desire to stay in contact with all of the people with whom I had started losing contact. Unlike most Americans, I found the breaking and re-forming of friendship bonds following every habitat relocation I made to be something very difficult to do. The Jim Report has done nothing to resolve this social inadequacy, but I do get to talk about myself a lot.

Who Is This Jim Anyway?

Jim was a rather ordinary law student at the University of Montana School of Law who merely happened to record his presence there while being herded along. He writes the Jim Report every month, without fail. In crafting the sacred document, only one rule is followed: "If it happens, it gets in the report." Jim Reports are commonly written at the last possible second and are often completely irrelevant. Or always. To that end, keep in mind that this book was essentially written in real-time, without the benefit of reflection and hindsight. I have not gone back and changed my original thoughts, but in places I have made cuts and stylistic

changes to reflect a shift in the audience, which was an e-mail mailing list, to the readers of this book.

When Does The Jim Report Take Place?

The first Jim Report was immaculately conceived in July 2006 and a new report has miraculously reappeared every month since. This particular publication contains snippets of my soul-filled (and reserve soul-filled) life before law school and then more complete reports thereafter until January 2010, so that you may truly taste legal agony, or fun, whatever you want to call it. I've skimmed down the reports in certain places to keep my law school experiences as the primary focus, but it is important to note that, yes, life does happen even while you are in law school. To that end, I have included an appendix that includes a few "must-reads" as selected by my earliest readers.

How Do You Read The Jim Report?

A book is sort of like an e-mail. Instead of electronic characters illuminating themselves on an electronic screen, ink is impressed onto a substance known as "paper" to produce a similar effect. Rather than using the scroll bar to access more text, instead grab the paper and crudely flip it on its side. Loading time is thankfully minimal.

Where Should The Jim Report Be Read?

At the Cougar Country burger joint in Pullman, Washington. Alternatively, the book can also be enjoyed at Del's Place in Missoula, Montana. Anywhere really, as long as there are good burgers and refillable soft drinks.

Why in the World Is This Getting Printed?

I have no idea. I just talk about myself all the time. Amazingly, some people find this interesting. You'll just have to go back and read the editor's preface to figure that mystery out.

Some of the names in this book have been changed, but most have not.

Enjoy the reports!

Jim