

**Student Bar Association President Adam Cohen's Statement
on the Tragic Loss of WCL Student Jim McBride**

Dear Friends,

On August 10, 2005, the Washington College of Law family lost one of its own, well before his time. It is with profound sadness that I inform you of the tragic passing of James (Jim) C. McBride, a 25-year old rising part-time 3L student and District of Columbia police officer. Jim died after a 12-mile bicycle training exercise as a result of hyponatremia, a sodium imbalance caused by consuming excessive amounts of fluid.

While only joining the police force two years ago, Jim, a Boston native, had already received high honors and the respect of his fellow officers. In 2004 he was named the First District's Rookie of the Year. In his passing, officers have noted that he was "a central component to everything going on" in the force and Mayor Anthony Williams has called him an officer "who loved his city and who served it well." Jim had patrolled a notoriously violent public housing complex off of North Capitol Street and had reportedly pushed supervisors to allow him to ride the weeklong bicycle training course, believing it would better prepare him to do his job. From all accounts, Jim was a rising star within the District of Columbia police force, and his dedication and passion will be missed by the force as well as the American University Washington College of Law.

A *Washington Post* article on October 11, 2005 ("Fate Reveals Fallen Officer's Gift") reveals the incredible man that Jim was, exhibiting great selflessness even after his death. Upon his passing, Jim donated multiple organs to those in medical need, including – in a strange twist of fate – an aunt of one of his fellow police officers. I hope you will take the time to read the article that has been reprinted with the permission of the *Washington Post* on the *American Jurist* website (www.AmericanJurist.net) and remember the great man that Jim was and the incredible loss his death brings to the Washington College of Law family.

The Washington College of Law student community's thoughts and prayers are with the entire McBride family and all of Jim's fellow students here who surely will miss him.

Regretfully,
Adam J. Cohen
President, Student Bar Association