



TORT Show Sings and Dances to Sell-Out

The Theatre of the Relatively Talentless (TORT) is a theatrical musical parody of the law school experience. Each year, Law School students write, direct, and perform an original, full-length musical, abandoning their normally reserved demeanors as they showcase hidden talents in humor, song, and dance. Past productions include *The Wizard of Fritz*, *Law Wars*, and last year's sold-out smash hit, *Walter Wonka and the Lawyer Factory*. This year's production, *West Bank Story*, told a tale of two star-crossed law school students caught between rival groups—the Sharks and the PILs.

Each year, more than 70 students participate in the acting, singing, and technical work for the show. Running for four performances, TORT has become a major theatrical event. *West Bank Story* held four sold-out performances at St. Paul Student Center Theatre, and drew nearly 1,300 students, faculty, and alumni. All productions featured cameo appearances from respected legal luminaries, including former Vice President Walter Mondale, '56; Attorney General Mike Hatch, '73; Eighth Circuit Chief Judge James Rosenbaum, '69; and Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar. Law School faculty and staff also participated in each show.

Several top Minneapolis-based law firms sponsored TORT to show commitment to the values of entertainment, quality of life, and humor, in addition to hard work. TORT corporate sponsors include Dorsey & Whitney LLP; Faegre & Benson LLP; Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP; Gray Plant Mooty; Fredrikson & Byron PA; and Shumaker & Sieffert, PA. The firms' contribution went directly to the technical costs associated with this surprisingly high-quality theatrical production; this year, it cost \$12,000 to produce *West Bank Story*.

For more information or to support TORT, visit www.umn.edu/~tort, where you can download original cast performances and purchase DVDs of past performances. We look forward to seeing you at the show next year! ●

By Anna Pia Nicolas, Class of 2007

