



Published on HamptonRoads.com | PilotOnline.com (<http://hamptonroads.com>)

# Lohan's legal woes put spotlight on W&L professor

By *Rex Bowman*

After years of laboring outside the national limelight, Washington and Lee University law professor Erik Luna achieved some measure of Internet fame this week thanks to Hollywood bad girl Lindsay Lohan.

Lohan loves Luna's legal analysis. Especially as it relates to sentencing guidelines.

Lohan was sentenced to 90 days in jail Tuesday by a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge who said she'd violated the terms of her probation on two drunken-driving charges from 2007. Outraged, the actress took to her Twitter account Wednesday, sending out a flurry of tweets protesting her sentence.

In bursts of 140-character phrases, she cited a paragraph from a 2002 Luna article published by the Cato Institute and titled "Misguided Guidelines: A Critique of Federal Sentencing."

Since then, Luna said he has been besieged by messages from colleagues and students, as well as by media outlets looking to interview him. His name has popped up in various accounts of Lohan's Twitter rant. Hollywood.com noted, for instance, that Lohan had found "a random article by Erik Luna (some man who's probably very smart)." Gawker.com referred to Lohan's legal muse as "this Erik Luna fellow." TheAtlanticWire.com, meanwhile, headlined its story, "Lindsay Lohan Hearts the Cato Institute."

In a written statement Friday, Luna said he is "amused" by his sudden fame. But he said Lohan's use of his article is misguided: The problems with federal sentencing guidelines that the article attacked, he said, have since been changed, and Lohan was sentenced under California, not federal, guidelines.

Luna said he's not familiar with Lohan's work, except the 1998 film "The Parent Trap," which his 9-year-old daughter Aubrey likes.

"I don't believe Aubrey is familiar with subsequent chapters in Ms. Lohan's career," he said in a statement, "and that's probably as it should be."

---

**Source URL (retrieved on 07/12/2010 - 09:58):** <http://hamptonroads.com/2010/07/lohans-legal-woes-put-spotlight-wl-professor>