

The Pre-Law e-Newsletter from Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

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Friday, April 1, 2011 – Thursday, April 14, 2011

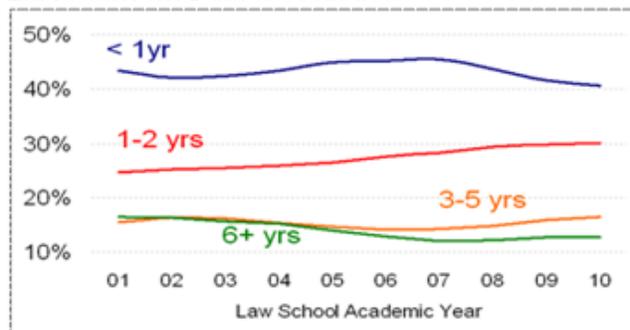
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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Hope everyone had a nice respite over spring break. For those of you considering delaying a year or two before applying to law school, note that you will be a part of the current trend! LSAC's website published data shows (see graph below) that the percentage of first time fall applicants to ABA-approved law schools who have taken 1 to 2 years between undergraduate study and law school is up to 30%. This 2010 percentage is approximately a 5% increase from 2001 statistics.

It is predicted that the trend will continue and that the percentage will increase.

LSAC Current Data & Statistics



Years Between Undergraduate Degree and Applying to Law School
% First-Time Fall Applicants to ABA-Approved Law Schools (<http://www.lsac.org/>)

2. LAW SCHOOLS GO GLOBAL

In the 2012 edition of *U.S. News and World Report's Best Graduate Schools*, Christopher J. Gearon wrote an article entitled "Going Global in Law School." The article states, "As the world moves increasingly toward globalization, America's law schools are offering students more opportunities to immerse themselves in foreign legal systems and international law." Deans and professors at prominent law schools advocate that international study in law is valuable and arguably critical to becoming a competent attorney.

Popular study abroad options in law school include summer programs, which do not interfere with the regular academic year. However, semester abroad programs have become increasingly available. In fact, a consultant for the American Bar Association's legal education and admission section, Hulett

Askew, states: "The growth overall [of foreign study programs] in the last five or 10 years has been steady – and even dramatic." According to the ABA, at least 112 U.S. law schools collectively offered over 255 foreign study programs in 2009, boasting 8,000 U.S. law student participants.

Though the programs are not for everyone, if you did not take advantage of studying abroad while an undergraduate, remember that you will likely still have that option as a law student. And many experts agree, "global experience has become a major plus on resumes."

To read the article in full, visit:

<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/articles/2011/03/29/law-schools-go-global>

3. INTERIM YEAR OPPORTUNITY: CITIZEN OUTREACH DIRECTOR(S), FUND FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Citizen Outreach Directors (COD) for the Fund run a campaign office in one of dozens of cities throughout the country. COD supervise staff that educate citizens about the issues and gets them involved in campaigns to win progressive change. COD build a team of committed activists who, in turn, mobilize hundreds or thousands of citizens to take action.

The Fund for the Public Interest, works leading progressive groups such as The Sierra Club, The Human Rights Campaign, and Environment America to help fight for the future of our health, the environment and democracy.

COD responsibilities include: staff management, canvassing and field work, and campaign strategies.

Fund staff participate in intensive, paid training and receive an annual salary with benefits. Positions are available across the United States.

To view the listing in its entirety, visit:

<http://www.fundforthepublicinterest.org/jobs/canvass-director>

To learn more about Fund for the Public Interest positions, and, the Fund, generally, visit:

<http://www.fundforthepublicinterest.org/jobs/leadership>

4. INTERVIEW: HARRISON TAYLOR (JHU '09), LITIGATION PARALEGAL, HUGHES, HUBBARD & REED, LLP

Harrison Taylor is a litigation paralegal at the Manhattan office of Hughes, Hubbard & Reed, LLP. Since May 2010, Harrison has worked primarily on matters related to the exchange of securities between the Lehman Brothers Estate and Barclay's Capital.

For about a year prior to commencing his position at Hughes, Hubbard, Harrison played baseball for a team in Australia. He also held jobs as a warehouse worker for Live! Clothing and as deckhand for Captain Cook Cruises while in Perth, Western Australia.

Harrison received his B.A. from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in 2009, as a political science major and entrepreneurship & management minor. While at JHU, he was a NCAA athlete and member of the JHU varsity baseball team. In 2007 and 2008, Harrison was a member of the Centennial Conference Championship Team and a runner up in the 2008 Division III College World Series. He was on the social committee for the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and one of four baseball representative on JHU's Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Harrison was active in the community while at JHU, where he was a Student Pen Pal, a volunteer for Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen and the Partnership for Student Achievement Mentoring Program, a pitching coach for the Roland Park Baseball Clinic, and a tutor for the Harriet Lane Clinic. Additionally, Harrison was a Game Operations Worker on campus for four years, spent three summers as a lifeguard and manager at Anchor Aquatics Inc. Landings II in Annapolis, and spent one summer as a Law Clerk at the Baltimore City Public Defender's Office.

Harrison Taylor has been admitted to and plans to attend The University of Michigan Law School this upcoming fall 2011.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of a Litigation Paralegal at Hughes Hubbard & Reed, LLP.

I currently work as a litigation paralegal at Hughes Hubbard & Reed in New York. A typical day involves research on databases like Concordance, Relativity, Westlaw and Lexis Nexis, proofreading and organizing a variety of documents related to each case I am working on. As we approach key dates in the cases we are assigned to (i.e. depositions, motion deadlines, discovery deadlines, etc.) my job involves hard document assembly. This is the time when we create binders, page check, scan documents and work a lot of overtime hours. Typically a paralegal will be assigned to several cases that they consistently work on, but when new cases come into the firm or attorneys need an extra hand on current matters the managing attorney will send out mass emails requesting volunteers. It is a constant balancing act between billing as many hours as possible (pro bono hours as well) and not overloading yourself causing work product to suffer.

2) What made you choose this particular position and has it met your expectations?

My only previous legal work experience was as a law clerk in the Baltimore City Office of the Public Defender. The position was an unpaid internship I took the summer after my Junior year. I chose to pursue a paralegal position at a larger firm to bolster my resume with legal experience and gain a more intimate look at how "Big Law" works. The job has definitely exceeded my expectations and this is, in no small part, due to the strong interest our firm takes in teaching younger associates and paralegals about various aspects of law as it is practiced.

For example, Hughes Hubbard has two trial advocacy programs (summer and spring) where first years and summer associates have an opportunity to practice opening and closing statements as well as direct and cross examinations. Paralegals play witnesses and get the chance to learn as partners critique younger associates. Other programs are offered that cover anything from writing briefs to proper time entry. Knowing many paralegals are aspiring lawyers, Hughes Hubbard takes special care to teach them about the more substantial aspects of law. I feel as though the experience will be invaluable in school and afterwards when transitioning into a firm.

3) Did you pursue anything else during your interim years before beginning law school? How did you go about researching each of these opportunities?

I used my first year after graduation to play baseball for a team in Western Australia with another Hopkins teammate. The opportunity arose in the spring of my senior year when a friend of our pitching coach, a catcher for the Australian national team, informed us that there were teams in Australia looking for American players. At this point I already decided to take a year off before law school and was open to any interesting opportunities. Over the next few months we solicited coaches from several teams providing them with information about us as players. By May/June we received an offer and committed to play for a team in Perth. We were given a car, a place to stay, but because it was unpaid we were also setup with jobs in a clothing warehouse. During the three month gap between graduation and my departure for Australia I studied for the LSAT.

4) What do you think you have gained from the experiences and from taking time off before law school? Given the choice, would you do it again?

Taking time off before law school has been invaluable to me personally and professionally. Playing baseball and working full time abroad set me apart from a large majority of law school applicants and also gave me time to mature. Working as a paralegal continues to teach me about how law is practiced at major law firms and has helped me understand why I want to practice law. I owe nearly all the success I had this application cycle to the two years I took off after graduation. Given the choice I would absolutely do it again and highly recommend taking time off before law school to any prospective applicant.

5) What types of undergraduate opportunities did you pursue that led to your decision to apply to law school? Were there any other experiences that you felt were particularly helpful in strengthening your application to law school?

I came to Hopkins knowing I wanted to pursue a career in law so I cannot say that I partook in any particular opportunities that inspired me to apply. Classes like Constitutional Law, Law and the Internet, Capital Punishment and Business Law allowed me to test the waters but they neither encouraged nor discouraged me from pursuing my career goals.

Playing baseball certainly helped because it allowed me to play abroad for a year after I graduated. Working and playing baseball in Australia was the most significant experience in my application. Beyond that I would say that part-time employment and volunteering hit some checkpoints that admissions committees like to see.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a paralegal at Hughes, Hubbard, or have additional questions for Harrison Taylor, you may reach him via email at: harrison.h.taylor@gmail.com

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming LSAT Administration for 2011

Location: Check with LSAC for testing locations (next on campus/JHU LSAT administration – Monday, June 6, 2011).

Date: Monday, June 6, 2011

Time: Registration begins at 11:30am for the June exam -- consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

DC-Metro Area Law School Admissions Panel

Location: Mattin 162

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Description: Admissions representatives from George Washington University Law School, Georgetown University Law Center, University of Baltimore School of Law, University of Maryland School of Law and American University, Washington College of Law will be discuss their law school and application strategies.

The Insiders Scoop: JHU Alums/Current Law School Students & First Year Associates

Location: Sherwood Room (Levering)

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2011

Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Description: JHU alumni will discuss what it is like to be a law student at their respective school, summer experiences while in law school and what it is like to be a first year associate at a large firm.

STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING

Ana L. Droskoski, J.D., Assistant Director, Pre-Law Advisor & Pre-Dental Advisor

David Verrier, Ph.D., Director, Pre-Health Advisor

Ellen Snyderman, M.S., Pre-Health Advisor

The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:

Carolyn Mae Krause, Administrative Coordinator, ckrause@jhu.edu 410-516-6744

For students whose last name begins with A-L, contact Mrs. Krause.

LaTonia Sanders, Administrative Coordinator, ladytee@jhu.edu 410-516-4140

For students whose last name begins with M-Z, contact Mrs. Sanders.

Angie Decker, Office Manager, decker@jhu.edu

Please feel free to use the resource library between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. every day or visit our website <http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/> for additional information.

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