



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

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Friday, April 15, 2011 – Thursday, April 28, 2011

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) Action Report contains data for law schools applied to by Johns Hopkins University applicants. Note that it takes approximately one year for LSAC to compile the data. Additionally, LSAC maintains the confidentiality of data reported for 4 or less applicants; however, said data is indicated on the report by an asterisk.

The LSAC Action Report -- particularly, the "Admitted" data column -- can be a helpful tool in gauging how competitive you will be for law schools of interest, and, in turn, when compiling your list of law schools which to apply.

The most current Law School Summary Action Report (2009 to 2010) is now available on our website:
<http://web.jhu.edu/bin/o/w/ActionReport.pdf>

Enjoy Spring Fair!

2. BIG FIRMS' IMPACT ON LAW SCHOOL CURRICULUMS & THE JOB MARKET

In the *U.S. News & World Report 2012 Edition of Best Graduate Schools* article entitled, "Adapting to Big Shifts at 'BigLaw': Belt-Tightening Firms Are Changing Both the Job Market and the Curriculum," author Ann Carrns discusses how client opinion has driven and continues to drive change in law school programs of study as well as law firm structure and function.

Clients' insistence that they get more bang for their buck and to have their cases worked on by more experienced attorneys have caused law schools to ramp up their pragmatic offerings. Some law schools, such as Northwestern, are targeting older students by offering a 2 year law degree. Other changes at the law school level include permitting inter-disciplinary course work, for example, at the university's business school, etc.; expanded externship programs and legal clinic focus, so that students have work place experience and/or with actual clients before graduation; and a lean toward reshaping the third year of law school to a practicum.

Shifts at the law firm level have been in hiring practices, with drastically decreased first-year associate hires and lower first-year associate starting salaries, as well as the retooling of an associate's first year to resemble an apprenticeship. For example, in 2009, Drinker Biddle & Reath, a Philadelphia based 650-attorney national law firm, created their First Year Associate Development Program which exempts first year associates from billable work their first several months of employment. Under the guidance of

experienced attorneys, the program has them complete exercises "designed to hone their communication and problem-solving skills, tackling real assignments, and shadowing practicing lawyers."

Set to face a daunting debt load upon graduation and a market where the supply of attorneys does not meet the current demand, a true sense of purpose should be what drives you to enter law school. It will benefit you as an applicant, while in law school and as a prospective employee.

To read the article in full, visit:

<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/articles/2011/03/15/law-schools-adapt-to-big-shifts-at-biglaw>

3. INTERIM YEAR OPPORTUNITY: LEGAL ASSISTANT/ASSITANT SECRETARY TO A JUSTICE, U.S. SUPREME COURT

The Legal Assistant/Assistant Secretary to a Justice position is a full-time position at the Supreme Court of the United States, in Washington, D.C.

DUTIES:

Administrative, executive secretarial and paralegal duties including organizing Court conference materials, researching and analyzing information from a variety of sources, preparing correspondence, scheduling and maintaining the Justice's calendar, and telephone responsibilities. Some other duties may be required.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

5 years administrative, secretarial and/or paralegal experience preferably in a Court or legal setting required. Bachelor's degree preferred, paralegal (or legal) training preferred. Formal education beyond an Associate's degree may be substituted for up to two years of the experience requirement. Proficiency with Microsoft Office products required. Experience performing automated research on Lexis and Westlaw, and ability to analyze, organize and maintain the assembly of documents (including legal documents) within established deadlines required. Strong organizational, verbal and written communication skills, the ability to establish and follow the priority of assignments and to produce quality work under time constraints essential. Employment is subject to the successful completion of a security background check, and U.S. Citizenship is required.

DEADLINE: *MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011, 11:59 PM*

To view the complete listing and to apply, visit:

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=98519579&JobTitle=Legal+Assistant%2fAssistant+Secretary+to+a+Justice&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&pg=1&q=paralegal&re=0&rad_units=miles&AVSDM=2011-04-12+03%3a36%3a00

4. INTERVIEW: AARON BLYNN (JHU '06), ASSOCIATE, GENOVESE JOBLove & BATTISTA

Aaron S. Blynn is an Associate at the Miami, Florida office of Genovese Joblove & Battista, P.A. He practices in the areas of commercial litigation, employment law and franchise law. He also has experience in intellectual property law, including trademark litigation. Aaron was a Summer Associate at Genovese Joblove & Battista in 2008, and began his current position in September 2009.

Aaron is a member of the American Bar Association and the Dade County Bar Association. He regularly contributes to the on-line publication "Private Advertising Litigation (PAL) Recent Litigation Developments," published by the American Bar Association's Private Advertising Litigation Committee.

Aaron received his Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Miami, where he was the Ray H. Pearson fellow in the Center for Ethics and Public Service. While in law school, he received the C.A.L.I. Excellence for the Future Award for Employment Discrimination and received the Dean's Certificate of Achievement Award for Federal Legal Research. In addition, he was awarded Honors in the University of Miami Litigation Skills Program.

The summer following his first year of law school, Aaron was a Law Clerk for Burger King Corporation in Miami, Florida. The summer before entering law school, Aaron was an Intern at The Legal Aid Society in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Aaron graduated, *cum laude*, from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in 2006, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He was a member of JHU's Varsity Soccer team his entire undergraduate career and made the Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll Fall of his senior year. The summer of 2005, Aaron was an Intellectual Property Summer Intern at Kilpatrick Stockton, LLC in Atlanta, Georgia, and the summer of 2004, he was a Congressional Summer Intern for U.S. Senator Richard Burr.

Aaron S. Blynn is admitted to practice in Florida and before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of a Second Year Associate.

The average day for a young attorney largely depends on the area of law in which they practice. For those working as public defenders or prosecutors, days are mostly spent in court rooms handling criminal matters. For young associates doing commercial litigation, days are spent conducting legal research and writing briefs.

2) What did you pursue during your law school summers and before beginning your current position? How did you go about researching these opportunities?

During the summer after my first year in law school, I worked as a law clerk in Burger King Corporation's legal department. I got this position through the University of Miami School of Law's Career Development Office. During my second summer I worked as a summer associate for my current firm.

3) What initially attracted you to your current field?

I was initially attracted to the practice of law because my father and brother were attorneys. Through their experiences, I realized that being an attorney allows you to tackle new challenges on a regular basis. I also wanted a career that afforded me the opportunity to continue learning even after I was out of school.

4) How would you compare the reality of law school, the ensuing job search and current job market to the picture you had of it while an undergraduate?

Having family members who attended law school and who are practicing attorneys provided me with a fairly accurate perception of the realities of law school and the job market. Many of my classmates were not so fortunate and were ill-prepared for the high demands of law school.

5) What was your favorite law school class, and why? How did you go about choosing classes after your first year of law school?

My favorite class in law school was litigation skills. Many classes in law school do not prove to be terribly useful on a daily basis once you begin practicing. However, litigation skills afforded me the opportunity to develop my oral advocacy skills. In addition, without taking this course I would have graduated law school without the ability to draft the most basic of legal documents.

The best way of selecting courses after the first year is to review course evaluations and select classes taught by the best professors. Of course, if the subject matter of the class is not remotely interesting to you, don't take it. I would also recommend taking at least a few classes that will be on your state's bar examination.

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

What most prepared me for law school was playing varsity soccer at Hopkins. Learning how to manage my time and deal with the demands of playing a college sport while maintaining a social life proved an invaluable experience. In law school I found myself using the same time management skills.

7) What made you choose Miami Law, and did it meet your expectations? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school, and, particularly, UM?

After spending four winters in Baltimore, I decided that I wanted to live in a warmer climate. From there I picked cities which were developing and would likely have many opportunities in the coming years. Miami fit that description as it is obviously very warm and has a vibrant legal and business community.

8) Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in pursuing law school and a career in law given your experience in today's legal market and now as an associate?

I would highly recommend making sure that you want to practice law. Going to law school is an expensive and stressful proposition. If you are not positive that you want to be a lawyer, it would make sense to find another job. Without question, if you think you want to practice law because it is a quick way to acquire wealth, do not go to law school. High-paying jobs are not as common as one would think. In addition, being a lawyer can, at times, be extremely stressful.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being an Associate, Genovese Joblove & Battista or have additional questions for Aaron, you may reach him via email at ablynn@gjb-law.com, or by phone at 305-913-6685. Additionally, if you find yourself in Miami, Aaron would be happy to set up a meeting.

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.

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

Carolyn Mae Krause, Administrative Coordinator, [ckrause@jhu.edu](mailto: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](mailto:ladytee@jhu.edu) 410-516-4140

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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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