



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 4, No. 2

Friday, September 24, 2010 – Thursday, October 7, 2010

- ~~~~~
- 1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.**
 - 2. The Gravity and Lingering Effects of Plagiarism**
 - 3. Glide Year Opportunity: Teach For America**
 - 4. Interview: Deepa Bijpuria, Project Director/Attorney, Women’s Law Center of Maryland’s Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project (MEDOVI)**
 - 5. Upcoming Pre-Law Meetings and Program Announcements**
- ~~~~~

1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

I hope most of you were able to make our 2010 Law School Fair, especially the juniors and seniors. We had one of the best turnouts in years, by both law schools and potential applicants.

For those considering taking time off before law school, consider Teach for America (TFA). To learn more about the program, attend the TFA on campus info session on Thursday, October 7. More information can be found below in Section 3.

Best of luck with mid-terms!

2. The Gravity & Lingering Effects of Plagiarism

An August 1, 2010 New York Times article by Trip Gabriel entitled “Plagiarism Lines Blur for Students in Digital Age” discusses the growing confusion regarding what does and does not constitute plagiarism and an apparent increased apathy among students regarding the offense.

The article states:

In surveys from 2006 to 2010 by Donald L. McCabe, a co-founder of the Center for Academic Integrity and a business professor at [Rutgers University](#), about 40 percent of 14,000 undergraduates admitted to copying a few sentences in written assignments.

Perhaps more significant, the number who believed that copying from the Web constitutes “serious cheating” is declining — to 29 percent on average in recent surveys from 34 percent earlier in the decade.

Recognizing the gravity of plagiarism is important. Why? Having an offense can not only affect your grade in the course at issue, it could also affect your future ability to gain admission to law schools. Most, if not all, law schools require you to disclose whether you have had any academic violations or offenses, even if they have been expunged and/or are not of record with the University.

It is always best to err on the side of conservative when confronted with a questionable situation.

Your future may depend on it!

To read the article in full, visit the following link:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/02/education/02cheat.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

3. GLIDE YEAR OPPORTUNITY: TEACH FOR AMERICA

Interested in Exercising your Leadership Skills before Law School? Consider Teach For America!

Third APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Take 3 minutes and fill out the online [interest form](#) & join Teach For America for an [on-campus Information Session](#) on Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 7pm in Mattin 162.

[Teach For America](#) seeks individuals of all backgrounds, majors, and career interests interested in utilizing their leadership skills to help students in low-income communities reach their goals.

The opportunity offers a full [salary](#) (\$30,000-\$52,000/year), full-benefits, loan deferment and additional money towards further education.

Teach For America provides training, as well as [support and resources](#) to help TFA members lead their students to significant academic progress and to have a tremendous impact on student lives.

After the corps, [TFA alumni](#) have access to [graduate school partnerships](#) with top law, medical, business, policy, and science/engineering schools across the country. Many law schools -- including the country's top 14 law schools -- partner with Teach For America to offer special benefits for corps members and alumni, including two-year deferrals, application fee waivers, and scholarships. You can read about one TFA member's experience as a New Orleans corps member and later, as an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow at Georgetown University Law Center [here](#).

For application information, visit [the applicant center](#) or email Andrea Schwartz at andrea.schwartz@teachforamerica.org.

4. INTERVIEW: DEEPA BIJPURIA, PROJECT DIRECTOR/ATTORNEY, WOMEN'S LAW CENTER OF MARYLAND'S MULTI-ETHNIC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT (MEDOVI)

Deepa Bijpuria is the Project Director and an attorney for the Women's Law Center of Maryland's Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project (MEDOVI). In June 2005, Ms. Bijpuria joined the Women's Law Center of Maryland as a Protection Order Attorney in their Baltimore City office where she represented victims of domestic violence in protection order cases. In September 2006, Ms. Bijpuria assumed the role of Project Director for the MEDOVI Project.

As Project Director, Ms. Bijpuria represents foreign-born victims of domestic violence in immigration cases under federal laws. In addition, she educates the community about the issues that her clients face. Ms. Bijpuria helps provide trainings for first-responders to domestic violence so that they can identify the issue for the victims they serve and give appropriate referrals. She also directly educates victims about their legal rights through a "Know Your Rights" presentation offered in Spanish and English. Ms. Bijpuria works in a team with her bi-lingual legal advocate, Sarah Martin-Torres.

Ms. Bijpuria graduated with a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law in 2003. While in law school, she served on *The Business Lawyer* journal. Upon graduating from law school, Ms. Bijpuria was an associate for the Law Office of Arthur Drager, where she litigated adult guardianship and elder law cases. Ms. Bijpuria received her Bachelor of Science in Social Policy from Northwestern University in 1999.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of a Project Director/Attorney, Women's Law Center of Maryland's Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project (MEDOVI).

A typical day generally consists of a new client intake (usually in Spanish or English) where we meet a victim, determine her eligibility for our services, identify her legal problem and decide whether we can provide her with legal representation. Or we may have a meeting with a current client to work on her case -- from revising her declaration, to filling out immigration forms. A substantial amount of time each

day may be devoted to answering calls from people throughout Maryland with legal questions. We provide legal advice, information or referral for topics ranging from civil, family, immigration and criminal law, and receive on average 500 such calls a year. The balance of the day is consumed with working on active cases, from drafting legal petitions and marshalling evidence, to collaborating with other service providers like prosecutors and domestic violence advocates. Our daily work is punctuated with days out of the office, on average 1-2 times a quarter, to conduct trainings for agencies, like domestic violence organizations or law enforcement, and educational presentations directly to victims on their legal rights. On occasion, I am asked to serve on a panel or present at a local conference.

2) What initially attracted you to this field? What are some of the rewards of this area of law and the legal profession?

My purpose of becoming an attorney was to make immediate and discernible impact on the lives of my clients. The biggest rewards of being an attorney working with immigrant victims are the relationships with my clients and meeting people from all over the world. My current work has re-ignited my passion for my profession because I get to see first-hand the transformative effects of my legal representation on my client's life and future prospects.

3) What are some of the downsides of this area of law? How would you compare the reality of your profession to the picture you had of it while in school?

Working with victims can be emotionally stressful, however it helps you keep things in perspective. Working in a non-profit is not financially rewarding. While no one would or should expect to get rich working as a non-profit attorney, legal service providers should be compensated enough to be able to achieve financial stability. Additionally, a lack of secure funding for non-profits can make long-term planning to expand the program difficult. I had a lot of different experiences before and during law school, from clerking for the federal government and private law firms to volunteering at non-profits, so that I had a good understanding of what to expect when I became a licensed attorney.

4) Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in attending law school and, specifically, pursuing this body of law and the legal profession?

The legal profession is infinitely varied...it's up to you to find your niche and be happy. There are too many unhappy lawyers out there, but I can honestly say that I love my job and feel passionate about what I do! My best advice? Follow your passion. Intern with organizations, firms or agencies where you might want to work in the future. Get as many diverse legal experiences as possible.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about domestic violence law, the Women's Law Center of Maryland's Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project, or have additional questions for Ms. Bijpuria, you may contact her via email at dbijpuria@wlcmd.org. The link to the Women's Law Center of Maryland's Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project can be found here: <http://www.wlcmd.org/domesticviolence.html>.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming LSAT Administration for 2010

Location: On Campus -- Hodson 110. Check with LSAC for definitive and additional testing locations.

Date: Saturday, October 9, 2010

Time: Registration begins at 8:30am - consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

Personal Statement Workshop

Location: Maryland 110

Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Description: Robert Condlin, Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law, will offer a general overview of the "sleeper" in the law school application process. Obtain suggestions and tips on how to draft your best personal statement.

Georgetown University Law Center Info Session

Location: Gilman 50

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2010

Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Description: Alison Spada, Associate Director of Admissions, will provide information and answer questions about Georgetown University Law Center.

~~~~~  
**STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING**

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

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

Kirsten Kirby, M.S.Ed., Assistant 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](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

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

Angie Decker, Office Manager, [decker@jhu.edu](mailto: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.

Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.

Assistant Director

Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

Johns Hopkins University

Garland Hall Suite 300

3400 North Charles Street

Baltimore, MD 21218

Tel: 410.516.4140

Fax: 410.516.4040

email: [adrosco1@jhu.edu](mailto:adrosco1@jhu.edu)

[web.jhu.edu/prepro](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro)