



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

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Friday, October 22, 2010 – Thursday, November 4, 2010

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- 1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.**
 - 2. Letters of Recommendation v. Evaluations**
 - 3. Study Abroad Options for the Pre-Law Student**
 - 4. Interview: Andrew Park (JHU '06), 2L, Georgetown University Law Center**
 - 5. Upcoming Pre-Law Meetings and Program Announcements**
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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

In about one week, the October 2010 LSAT scores will issue. If you have questions regarding whether you should retake the test and/or how your score may impact where you will be competitive for admission, please schedule an appointment with me so we can discuss your individual case.

There have been a lot of questions lately regarding letters of recommendation and LSAC's new evaluation form. If you are a current applicant, read section 2 below for further, immediate guidance. If you are a future applicant, be sure to build connections with your professors now. That way, when you require a reference for law school applications, you will have specific people in mind whom you can be confident will advocate in writing on your behalf.

Happy Halloween (a bit early)!

2. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION V. EVALUATIONS

Effective Fall 2010, Law School Admission Council's (LSAC) Credential Assembly Service (CAS) provides two reference options when completing the law school application process: the traditional/narrative letter of recommendation (LOR) and the new evaluation form.

Many of you applying this cycle have asked questions about which option to utilize. Currently, most schools do not require -- and some do not accept -- evaluations. There are a few exceptions, however. University of Detroit Mercy School of Law requires one evaluation, and Texas Tech University School of Law requires two evaluations. Although the LSAC website indicates that Albany Law School of Union University requires evaluations, they will accept any combination of letters or evaluations. LSAC's list of "Services Required or Recommended by Law Schools," including LOR or evaluations, can be found at the following link:

<http://www.lsac.org/JD/apply/services-required-by-LS.asp>

So what should you opt for, given the choice? At this point -- inception -- it seems most law schools continue to prefer the LOR. However, if a law school accepts evaluations, too, consider asking your reference(s) what they would prefer to complete.

3. STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS FOR THE PRE-LAW STUDENT

Thinking about studying abroad? Do it! It is a wonderful, enriching experience. Pre-law students cannot ignore how important it is to have a solid understanding of human behavior and diverse cultures within the

United States and abroad. Studying abroad may even permit you to gain proficiency in a foreign language. This may not only garner the attention of law school admissions committees, but can lead to greater marketability in most job markets and once licensed as an attorney.

Although any study abroad program can be a worthwhile experience, below are three (3) study abroad options a pre-law student may find particularly interesting:

1) Programs with an EU/Comparative Law Emphasis

Many pre-law students have an interest in learning more about and pursuing international law. Some of you anticipate eventually practicing abroad. By taking courses or enrolling in study abroad programs with a European Union and comparative law emphasis, you can learn first-hand about governments, laws and regulations you may work within in the future. Many of these programs offer field trips to sites of note within the EU, such as Parliaments, The Hague, law firms, and court proceedings/hearings.

2) Programs that Offer Law Related Internship Opportunities Abroad

Today, work experience matters more than ever and can be a pivotal way to set a pre-law student apart as an applicant for internships/externships during your undergraduate -- and law school! -- career. An internship may also direct you toward a specific practice area in law and confirm whether law school and/or a career in law meets your expectations and is to your liking.

3) Direct Matriculation Programs that Allow Students to Take First-Year Law School Coursework Abroad

Many law schools offer joint degree opportunities which permit a student to obtain a *Juris Doctor* from their U.S. law school, while concurrently obtaining the J.D. equivalent in another country. In fact, these joint degree programs are expanding at a rapid rate. Taking first year law school coursework abroad is an excellent way to determine whether you should pursue such an academic path. Additionally, this option provides great insight into the law school experience in another country.

If you decide to study abroad, please meet with me to discuss potential impacts on the law school application process and to ensure that you still put your strongest application forward. And, of course, be sure to visit the Office of Study Abroad!

For further information on this topic, including specific program discussions, visit the following link on our office website:

http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/study_abroad.html

And the Office of Study Abroad website:

http://web.jhu.edu/study_abroad

4. INTERVIEW: ANDREW PARK (JHU '06), 2L, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

Andrew Park graduated from JHU in May 2006 with a B.A. Economics and a Minor in Mathematics. Like many Hopkins undergraduates, Andrew initially had hopes of attending medical school and accordingly tailored his courses towards a Chemistry degree. After a summer of neuroscience research, he realized that he wasn't as interested in the sciences and quickly changed his course focus.

A seminar course called "Economics of Antitrust" sparked his interest in legal studies, and he took the LSAT soon after he graduated. Andrew spent some time volunteering at a local non-profit in the dispute resolution section to further explore this interest. Upon graduation from Hopkins, Andrew knew that he wanted to take some time off to make sure he wanted to go to law school.

In December 2006, Andrew's Peace Corps application was processed, and, in June 2007, he began a two-year service in China.

Fall of 2009, Andrew started his term at Georgetown University Law Center. This past summer 2010, he interned at a law firm in Seoul, South Korea. Andrew's current law school extracurricular activities include

interning at the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) in D.C. and participating as the Social Chair for the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.

Questions:

1) Describe a typical day as a 2L at Georgetown University Law Center (GULC). What has been your favorite class to date, and why?

Honestly, there is no such thing as a typical day in law school. Generally, 1L is a lot more similarly structured as students have a set course curriculum. Students tend to be a little bit more preoccupied by schoolwork and keeping up with readings. By the second year, students pick their own courses and own schedules. Currently, I work Mondays and Wednesdays at the USAO for pro bono hours. I have one evening class on Monday and 3 classes each on Tuesday and Thursday. Typically, most students do not have classes on Friday (students avoid Friday classes like the plague!!). If I had to sum up a typical day in law school in a word, it would be "juggling." There's always so much going on that I feel like I'm constantly juggling my time. Any given week, there are great panelists or prominent guest speakers to see, reading to do, classes to attend, board meetings to participate in, down time, and of course sleep.

My favorite class to date is Criminal Procedure. Like most classes, a professor can make or break the subject matter for the class. I think what made the subject matter interesting was that everyone wonders what police can and can't do. In this class, I learned about how search warrants are granted, how they're executed, and things like what police can do when they stop a car. To top it off, the professor was really entertaining with personal anecdotes from her experiences as a defense counsel.

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

"Economics of Antitrust" really started off my interest in law school. The case study approach to studying anticompetitive economics was really interesting. Even now, I am currently taking a course called "Antitrust Law," which is a nice balance between my economics background and my current legal studies.

For most law school applicants, a high GPA and/or LSAT score is a given. What makes law school special is the diverse student body. While I've encountered many people that have typical law school tailored undergraduate resumes, I think that there are more people who have taken really unique routes to law school. Law schools seem to look for candidates that are not only academically qualified, but also really individualistic. Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they've really thought about WHY they want to go to law school, and how they bring something distinct to the table. For myself, I am certain that my Peace Corps experience was a big plus in the application process. Even this past interviewing cycle (for summer 2011 jobs), many employers were really interested in why I did Peace Corps, what I did there, and of course, what I learned from the experience.

3) What made you choose Georgetown University Law Center, and has it met your expectations so far? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school, and, particularly, GULC?

I thought Johns Hopkins was great for pre-med students because of the abundance of research opportunities available for undergrads. Similarly, DC and Georgetown really offer law students an abundance of clinical and internship opportunities. The DC Attorney General's Office and US Attorney's Office are about two blocks from campus. The Securities Exchange Commission is just two blocks in the opposite direction. There are endless opportunities for externships and internships during the school year. Georgetown also has really amazing adjunct professors, legal practitioners from both the private and public sector who teach because they want to.

At the same time, I think it's important to realize that law school is just like college or high school. The cliché remains true: your experience is what you make it. You certainly won't ever feel like there's a paucity of opportunities or extra-curricular activities. It's up to you to be proactive and really take advantage of all the offerings. I guess the biggest con of law school, in general, is that there are times where you may feel like by not being active, you "fall behind" with respect to your peers. It may feel like

these aren't optional activities. It's important to maintain perspective with that regard and not get overwhelmed.

4) Do you have an idea of what you may pursue during your summers and/or the next 2 school years?

As of now, I'm waiting to hear back from a couple of firms and looking to do transactional work in the private sector. You never know though, and I change my mind almost every day. People say that you'll only really figure things out once you actually start practicing. In terms of classes, I'll continue to take anything that strikes my interest or target professors that have good reviews.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a law student at Georgetown University Law Center, or have additional questions for Andrew Park, you may contact him via email at asp48@law.georgetown.edu.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics Seminar Series -- Race in 21st Century Genomics Research: An Empirical Study and Some Preliminary Findings

Co-sponsored by the McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine and The Johns Hopkins Health and Human Rights Group

Location: 615 N Wolfe St, W3008 (JHU Bloomberg School of Public Health)

Date: Monday, October 25, 2010

Time: 12:15pm - 1:30pm

Description: Presentation by Pillar Ossorio, JD, PhD, Associate Professor of Law and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin at Madison; read her bio here:

<http://www.law.wisc.edu/profiles/pnossorio@wisc.edu>. Lunch will be provided.

Upcoming LSAT Administration for 2010

Location: Check with LSAC for testing locations (next on campus/JHU LSAT administration -- June 2010).

Date: Saturday, December 9, 2010; Saturday, February 12, 2010

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

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

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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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