



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 5, No. 10

Friday, March 2, 2012 – Thursday, March 15, 2012

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

In deciding when to take the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), timing is important. It is advisable to take the LSAT, at the latest, the June prior to the Fall that you apply to law school. This is because of how heavily the LSAT is weighted in the admissions process and also the timing of the application cycle. You want to submit your applications on the early end of the general application cycle, ideally by the first week in November. If you take the June LSAT, you will have that many more months to create your list of schools and, with your score on-hand, will know how competitive you will be as an applicant. You will also have the option of retaking the LSAT in October, if for some reason something goes wrong in June, while maintaining the ability to apply on the early end of the cycle.

Notwithstanding the above, timing should not come at the expense of preparation. For example, if you hoped to take the June 2012 LSAT but do not think you will have the time to consistently study for it this semester, it may be wiser to target the October LSAT, and study over the summer.

To discuss your ideal time to take the LSAT, please schedule an appointment with me.

2. SUMMER OPPORTUNITY: CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON SCHOLARS PROGRAM (CHHSP)

The Charles Hamilton Houston Scholars Program (CHHSP) at the University of Baltimore School of Law is fully subsidized and runs from May 20 to June 29, 2012. The program intends to equip students with the educational and academic success skills to improve their undergraduate performance and to enhance their opportunity for admission to and success in law school.

Additionally, the CHHSP provides each participating scholar with an opportunity to form a mentoring relationship with a member of the Baltimore City legal community and to experience the practice of law through "At the Bar" Chats (round-table discussions with successful minority attorneys), Law Path Experiences (guest speakers from the legal profession) and mini-internships at law firms and other legal institutions.

This program focuses on the challenges often faced by minority students who may not have had or have utilized the social, experiential and cultural capital that facilitates success and enhances confidence. A weekly workshop—designed and conducted by experts in this field—also helps empower students to meet and overcome these challenges.

Candidates who have completed their freshmen or sophomore years of college are eligible to apply. Applicants must demonstrate leadership ability and active involvement in their schools and communities. It is not necessary to have prior experience or knowledge in the field of law. Candidates must be US citizens or permanent residents to be eligible. CHHSP targets, but is not restricted to, students from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in the profession. *Latino applicants are especially encouraged to apply.*

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 16, 2012

Submit application materials to the CHHSP by direct mail:
CHHSP
University of Baltimore School of Law
1415 Maryland Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-5779
Email: chhsp@ubalt.edu

For more information and to apply, visit: <http://law.ubalt.edu/template.cfm?page=1443>

3. MEDIA WATCH: WHAT HIRING PARTNERS SEEK WHEN CONSIDERING ASSOCIATES

In a February 27, 2012 article entitled "Straight from the Hiring Partner's Mouth," *The National Law Journal* (NLJ) interviewed the hiring partners of four NLJ top-250 law firms about summer-associate projections and what qualities they look for in a new attorney hire.

The anonymous responses by those interviewed touch on the usual suspects of law school reputation/ranking and the class rank and grades of the potential associate. However, there was also an emphasis on enthusiasm for and demonstrated knowledge of the firm -- which conveys why the person is a good fit -- as well as success at working in teams, leading others, and overcoming challenges.

This is important to keep in mind, as firms are not 100% "formula driven;" it's more than just the data of potential associates and their respective law school that seals the deal. How a potential hire handles his/herself in the interview (and handled themselves in the past) is also important, as "people who simply expect to be hired rarely will be."

To read the article in full, visit:
<http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticleNLJ.jsp?id=1202543428422>

4. INTERVIEW: STACEY D. FINLEY, SENIOR ASSOCIATE, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LITIGATION TEAM, AARONSON, RAPPAPORT, FEINSTEIN & DEUTSCH, LLP

Stacey D. Finley is a Senior Associate on the Medical Malpractice Litigation Team of Aaronson, Rappaport, Feinstein & Deutsch, LLP in Manhattan. In this position, she manages over 55 medical malpractice cases, representing doctors, nurses and hospitals, up to and at the trial level. Prior to joining her current firm, Ms. Finley was an Associate on the Worker's Compensation Team of Brecher, Fishman, Pasternack, Popish, Heller, Reiff & Walsh, P.C. for almost two years, and an Associate on the General Liability Team with Abrams, Gorelick, Friedman & Jacobson, P.C., for about one year.

Before moving to private practice, and immediately upon graduation from law school, for three years Ms. Finley was an Assistant District Attorney in the Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Bureau of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office. While there, she managed a caseload of over 100, conducting investigations, preparing and prosecuting misdemeanor and felony cases from inception to trial, including bench and jury trials, and second chaired homicide and rape trials.

Originally from Philadelphia, Ms. Finley earned a B.S. in Business Management from Hampton University in 1992. While in college, she was a member of the Student Leader Program, Student Government, and was a Class Leader.

Upon graduating from college, Ms. Finley obtained her Certificate in Litigation Management in 1995 from the Philadelphia Institute for Paralegal Studies and paralegaled at Dechert LLP in tobacco litigation and at Dilworth Paxson LLP on commercial fraud cases and in railroad litigation.

Ms. Finley graduated from American University, Washington College of Law in 2000. While in law school, she was a member of the Moot Court Board, the Black Law Student Association, the Criminal Law Society, a Student Bar Association Senator, and a writer for the *American Jurist*. Additionally, during law school and over her summers, Ms. Finley was a screening intern for the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, a student attorney in the Civil Practice Clinic, a student intern at the U.S. Attorney's Office, a student intern for the Honorable Harold L. Cushenberry, Jr., and a second year student intern at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.

Stacey D. Finley is a member of the New York Bar and the New Jersey Bar.

1) Describe a day in the life of a Senior Associate, Medical Malpractice Team, Aaronson, Rappaport, Feinstein and Deutsch, LLP.

A typical day for me begins in court in one of the five boroughs of NYC. I am in court/depositions 3-4 days a week. I can be in court for motions-oral arguments, conferences, pre-trial conference or deposing a plaintiff, co-defendant or a non-party witness. If I have a day in the office, then I am doing reports to clients, reviewing my files and preparing for my next court appearance or deposition, and meeting with my partners to discuss strategy as we move forward. I speak with my clients, claims administrators, third party administrators, experts, judges, co-counsel and plaintiff's attorneys on a daily basis. I report on all medical records, meetings and court appearances. My phone rarely stops ringing, and I receive approximately 50-60 emails daily, if not more. I handle the case up to the trial stage, and then the partner who has been kept abreast of the case the entire time will start negotiations to settle the case, or we will get the case ready for trial.

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

I find medical malpractice interesting. You learn a lot about the body, how it works, and the signs and symptoms of various diseases. The information can be scary, but, also, I feel like I know a lot of medical terms and conditions based on my involvement in this area. I work with many top notch doctors as clients and experts, so that can be exciting. I think the best part of this area of the law is that you get to work with people from different backgrounds and cultures. I think the other benefit is that I am able to do a lot of writing which is always a benefit to any lawyer, and especially as a former Assistant District Attorney. In that position, I didn't write much at all. I tried cases.

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?

The pay is not what I expected. I am not compensated accurately for the work that I do or the hours that I put in to this job. I work for insurance companies, and that probably says it all. We have to bill a certain number of hours per year, and if you don't meet the number, you may not get your bonus or a raise.

I never thought of this job while I was in law school. I wanted to be an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) for the rest of my life. However, you can't live, eat or pay your student loans on what they pay you as an ADA, especially in a city as costly as NYC.

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

I would say be really sure that you want to go to law school. The debt is enormous and the pay for most lawyers is not as high as most would believe. IT IS NOT WHAT YOU SEE ON TELEVISION. In 2012, it is hard for even the best graduates to get a job. A lot of lawyers are doing temporary work, which is usually uninteresting and mind-numbing. Also, figure out what practice area you want to be in, because it is hard to transfer areas. For instance, if you are a litigator, you can't just jump over to contracts or regulatory work.

As far as being a medical malpractice insurance defense attorney, start by working in a job where you can get court experience: the District Attorney's office, Legal Aid, Corporate Counsel, etc. These jobs give you the chops you need to handle yourself in court and the chance to meet and deal with different kinds of people who are different from you, which in turn makes you a better person. If you take that kind of background and then move into a civil defense firm, you are a better lawyer and advocate for your clients.

Contact Information:

If you would like to learn more about Medical Malpractice Litigation, Aaronson, Rappaport, Feinstein & Deutsch, LLP, or if you have additional questions for Stacey D. Finley, you may contact her by email at: sdfinley@arfd.com.

Additionally, Ms. Finley recommends and follows the *ABA Law Journal*, because it provides a good, general understanding of the current state of the legal profession.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pre-Law Student Study Abroad Panel

Co-sponsored by the Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising and the Office of Study Abroad

Location: Gilman 50

Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Time: 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Description: JHU pre-law students will discuss their study abroad experiences in programs specifically geared to someone interested in law school.

DC-Metro Area Law School Admissions Panel

Location: Mason Hall Auditorium

Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2012

Time: 12:00pm to 12:55pm

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

Post-Bacc Opportunities/GAP Year Panel: Peace Corps, City Year & Teach for America

Co-sponsored by the Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising and the Career Center

Location: Mason Hall Auditorium

Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012

Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Description: Learn more about GAP year options including Peace Corps, City Year, Teach for America, and DOJ's paralegal program(s).

The Insiders Scoop: Recent Law School Graduates/Young Associates

Location: Gilman 50

Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2012

Time: 5:00pm to 6:15pm

Description: JHU alumni will discuss what it was like to be a law student at their respective schools, summer experiences while in law school and what it is like to be an associate at a large firm, in a federal government agency, and counsel for an insurance company. They will also discuss the current, legal job market.

Upcoming LSAT Administration for 2011/2012

Location: Check with LSAC for testing locations (next on campus/JHU LSAT administration – Monday, June 11, 2012).

Date: Monday, June 11, 2012

Time: Registration begins at 11.30a for the June exam – consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

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

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Katie Cruik, M.S., Assistant Director, Pre-Nursing & 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

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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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