



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

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Vol. 5, No. 11

Friday, March 16, 2012 – Thursday, April 12, 2012

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Due to Spring vacation, the next Pre-Law e-Newsletter will issue on Friday, April 13. Don't forget that there will be a relevant and informative program before then, the evening of Wednesday, April 11. Three recent law school grads, who are Hopkins alumni, will discuss what it's like in law school and how they grappled with the current legal job market. See section five below for details, and please try to attend.

Have a wonderful Spring Break!!!

2. OPPORTUNITY: SUMMER 2012 UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY, NATIONAL PRISON PROJECT, AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation (ACLU), founded in 1920, is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 500,000 members dedicated to the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the U.S. Constitution. The National Prison Project of the ACLU's National Office in Washington, D.C. invites applicants for the Summer 2012 Undergraduate Internship, which will begin in June 2012.

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1972 by the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Prison Project seeks to ensure constitutional conditions of confinement in prisons, jails, juvenile facilities, and immigration detention facilities. The Project publishes a semi-annual Journal, coordinates a nationwide network of litigators, conducts training and public education conferences, and provides expert advice and technical assistance to local community groups and lawyers throughout the country. The Project also works to challenge the policies of over-incarceration that have led the United States to imprison more people than any other country in the world.

The Project, with a staff of seven lawyers, has fought and continues to fight unlawful prison conditions and practices through successful litigation on behalf of prisoners in more than 25 states. Since 1991, the Project has represented prisoners in five cases before the United States Supreme Court. It is the only organization litigating prison conditions of confinement nationwide on behalf of men, women, and children.

INTERNSHIP OVERVIEW

The Summer 2012 Undergraduate Internship requires a 12-16 week commitment. The internship is full or part-time, with weekly hours negotiable. Interns are highly encouraged to obtain funding from outside sources, as the internship is unpaid. Arrangements can be made for work/study or course credit.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Summer Intern will have the opportunity to gain valuable experience by working alongside the National Prison Project team. Interns will also learn about building and supporting strategic legislative and advocacy campaigns. The intern will gain experience by working on the following:

- Gaining familiarity with the legislative process through supporting advocacy efforts to amend the Prison Litigation Reform Act by identifying key members of Congress
- Assisting in the production and distribution of advocacy materials
- Conducting factual research and writing
- Gathering current information related to prison and jail conditions for a resource library
- Documenting and tracking complaints received from prisoners and responding with informational materials
- Providing general and administrative support to the department
- Other projects as assigned

DESIRED EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

This Internship is open to all students enrolled in an undergraduate program for communications, political science, sociology, or related field who possess the following:

- A strong interest in criminal justice and a commitment to civil rights
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to work independently
- Excellent research, writing and communication skills
- Administrative experience in an office setting and strong organizational skills
- Strong computer skills, particularly web-based research including proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (i.e. Word, Excel, and PowerPoint)
- Effective oral and written communication skills

HOW TO APPLY

Send a cover letter and resume to:

hrjobsNPP@aclu.org with the subject heading

Re: 2012 Summer Undergraduate Internship – NPP

Or, by mail to:

Human Resources

RE: 2012 Summer Undergraduate Internship – NPP

American Civil Liberties Union

125 Broad Street, 18th Floor

New York, NY 10004

To see the listing in full, visit:

<http://www.idealists.org/view/internship/kxmknNZJ874/>

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2012

3. MEDIA WATCH: RUTGERS STUDENT CONVICTED IN SPYING CASE, FOUND GUILTY OF HATE CRIMES

Most of the country became familiar with the webcam spying case involving two Rutgers student roommates, Dharun Ravi and Tyler Clementi, when Clementi committed suicide in September 2010 by jumping off the George Washington Bridge. Preceding Clementi's death, Ravi had used a webcam to film and stream Clementi's intimate encounter with another man in his dorm room, which Clementi later discovered. The event brought increased attention to cyber-bullying, its reach and impact, and hate crimes.

Ravi eventually faced 15 charges. He was not charged with Clementi's death. With no facts in dispute, Ravi's defenses included immaturity and that his intent in filming and streaming was only to kid around.

Today, March 16, 2012, Ravi was found guilty of most of the charges, including invasion of privacy. The jury also found that he was motivated by bias under a relatively untested New Jersey hate-crime law.

Ravi will be sentenced on May 21, 2012 and faces up to 10 years in prison for the most serious convictions. As a U.S. permanent resident, he also faces the possibility of deportation because of the criminal convictions.

The verdict sends a strong message on cyber-bullying and bias accountability.

Below are a few article links with more details on the case and verdict, from *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *BBC News*:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/17/nyregion/defendant-guilty-in-rutgers-case.html>

<http://blogs.wsj.com/metropolis/2012/03/16/former-rutgers-student-convicted-in-webcam-spying-trial>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-17406173>

4. INTERVIEW: WENDY L. STARK, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EQUITY, TULANE UNIVERSITY



Wendy L. Stark is the Director of the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. In this position, she serves as OIE's primary Equal Employment and Educational Opportunity/Anti-Discrimination complaint investigator, conducts investigations in accordance with Tulane's Equal Opportunity/Anti-Discrimination Policies and Procedures (EO), and conducts compliance reviews for University departments.

Additionally, she is responsible for developing protocols, guidelines and procedures for investigation in accordance with Tulane's Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination Policies and Procedures and developing and conducting appropriate educational programs for University employees and students regarding equal opportunity and sexual harassment issues.

Prior to her position at Tulane, Ms. Stark was in private practice as an employer defense litigator, including at Phelps Dunbar LLP as a Senior Associate, at Leake & Andersson LLP for nearly 7 years as a

Senior Associate, and as an Associate at McGlinchey Stafford. Additionally, over the past 10 years, she has extensive academic and professional authorships.

Before entering law school, Ms. Stark was employed by Gulf Health Plans in Baton Rouge for 3 years, first as a Marketing Coordinator, then as an HCFA Compliance Coordinator and finally as a Member Advocate.

Ms. Stark graduated from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2001, in the top 17% of her class. While in law school, she was a Dean Herbert Scholarship recipient, won CALI Awards for Excellence in the study of: Civil Law Property, Basic Civil Procedure II and Family Law. She was also President of the Legal Association of Women from 1999 - 2000. Additionally, during law school and over her summers, Ms. Stark was a Summer Law Clerk for Montgomery Barnett, a Summer Law Clerk for Taylor, Porter, Brooks and Phillips LLP, and a Law Clerk for Kantrow, Spaht, Weaver & Blitzer.

Ms. Stark earned her B.A. in Journalism from LSU, Manship School of Journalism in 1995.

Wendy L. Stark is a member of the Louisiana State Bar.

1) Describe a day in the life of the Director of the Office of Institutional Equity at Tulane University.

Most days include reviewing files and/or interviewing different complainants regarding the claims/complaints they have submitted to our office related to discrimination, harassment or sexual abuse. Complainants can be students, university staff, or faculty. Our Office is a fact finding body, and we do not represent either party in the dispute during interviews. Through the investigations, I determine whether there has been a violation of the equal opportunity anti-discrimination violation policy. I meet with both parties named in the complaint, and try to informally resolve the process thru better communication. We informally mediate by suggesting the parties get together to discuss their concerns.

If a violation is found, we work with supervisors and university personnel to remedy discrimination and take appropriate work place action (i.e., write someone up, terminate, etc.) I also write reports and prepare a file for litigation, if necessary. However, the large majority of cases are handled in-house. The goal of our office is to facilitate an effective and efficient process on the front end of an issue and to avoid a lawsuit.

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

After 11 years of practice, I realized I liked working with clients/customers best; I enjoyed the personal interface much more than the motion practice. I also enjoyed the teaching aspect of employment law. In litigation, the majority of your time is spent at a desk, reading and writing motions/files. Also, my work week was 50-60 hours long, with very time-sensitive issues/requirements. As an employer defense attorney/litigator, I limited my client's liability and exposure to liability. In my current position, I cure workplace practices that could lead to discrimination or be found discriminatory or harassing. I am contributing to creating a better community and workplace.

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 downside is that I do not see the inside of courtroom. Currently, the closest I come to court is mediation thru with the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) or the OCR (Office of Civil

Rights); both are informal mediations processes. Prior to starting at Tulane, I was doing everything that leads up to trial/motion practice, including drafting motions for summary judgment, completing depositions, etc.

Prior to practice, I did not realize how much of my day would be at a desk, typing/writing motions in an office, reading depositions, etc., and not interacting with people or appearing in court. Also, interactions in litigation are antagonistic. In my current position there is a lot of round-table problem solving with different departments. We do “think tank” type things to better our processes, which includes lots of input and collaboration with non-attorneys, which is more congenial and collegial.

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

When in law school, take lots of labor and employment law coursework. In college, focus on a broad spectrum education and exposing yourself to different cultures. Anthropology, sociology, and psychology coursework could be helpful and relevant, as often in my field there are cultural clashes and related issues to deal with. Broader and more diverse experiences will make you better able to represent, understand and empathize with the different issues that you will face.

Contact Information:

If you would like to learn more employment law/litigation or if you have additional questions for Wendy Stark, you may contact her by email at: wstark@tulane.edu. If you would like to learn more about Tulane’s Office of Institutional Equity, visit: <http://tulane.edu/equity/index.cfm>

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Insiders Scoop: Recent Law School Graduates/Young Associates

Location: Gilman 50

Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2012

Time: 5:15pm 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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**STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING**

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

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

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

Katie Cruit, 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

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.

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