



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

\*Best viewed in HTML\*

**Vol. 5, No. 13**

Friday, April 27, 2012 – Thursday, May 10, 2012

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**1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.**

This is the final e-Newsletter of the 2011-2012 academic year. For those of you that applied this cycle, please let me know your final decision! If you are in limbo, i.e., on a waitlist/hold or trying to decide between several offers, please feel free to schedule an appointment with me, if you'd like to discuss same.

Big congratulations to all of the graduating seniors, and to everyone else, for completing another -- or your first -- year of college!

*Have a wonderful summer!*

**2. GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY: AMERICORPS OPPORTUNITIES AT GREATER BOSTON LEGAL SERVICES (GBLS)**

Make a difference by becoming a member of AmeriCorps and working at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). There are 3 full-time, AmeriCorps Opportunities available for lawyers, law students or aspiring law students to begin in September of 2012.

GBLS is the primary provider of free, non-criminal legal assistance in the Greater Boston area, assisting low-income individuals, families, and community-based organizations with a wide range of poverty law matters. Staff work in the following specialized units to best address the problems faced by the people in our service area living in poverty: Asian Outreach, Elder, Health and Disability, Employment, Family, Consumer Rights, Housing, Immigration, Welfare, and the Mass. Medicare Advocacy Project. In addition, the Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services Office (CASLS) offers legal assistance in a number of these areas to residents of Cambridge, Somerville and surrounding towns. Placements are available in the Asian Outreach Unit, CORI Project, and our Cambridge & Somerville Office.

AmeriCorps members will serve as legal assistants under the direct supervision of an experienced GBLS legal professional, many of whom are considered national experts in their respective areas of poverty law. Responsibilities may involve provision of advice, referrals, brief service, and direct representation of clients at administrative hearings; participation in community education and outreach activities, as well as other related work.

**Qualifications**

Members must be at least 17 years of age, be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or a lawful permanent resident alien of the U.S. In addition, candidates must be college graduates with an interest in attending

law school, attending law school at night, or a law school graduate with an interest in public service law. Training will be provided.

### **Salary**

Terms of Employment/Benefits: Members making a one year service commitment, and who complete their 1700 hour service commitment will receive: \$17,000 taxable yearly living allowance (paid bi-weekly); a \$5,500 annual education award (payable on completion of each year of service); health insurance; day care assistance, if eligible; hands-on supervised exposure to the practice of law.

### **Sponsorship**

The AmeriCorps placements at GBLS are part of the Legal Assistance for Self-Sufficiency Program run under the auspices of the South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc. participants will be employees of SCCLS. The program is funded through the Corporation for National Community and Service, and administered through the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

### **Language(s)**

Proficiency in a non-English language desirable.

### **Application Instructions:**

Interested individuals must submit a cover letter, resume and a signed application which may be downloaded at <http://www.mlassp.org/applnow.htm> to Sonia Marquez, Director of Human Resources by email at [jobs@gbls.org](mailto:jobs@gbls.org). Please use job code: "AmeriCorps" when applying. Cover letter should indicate unit of interest. For more information, please contact Ms. Marquez at (617) 603-1805.

### **Contact Information:**

Sonia Marquez  
Phone: (617) 603-1805  
Fax: (617) 371-1222  
[jobs@gbls.org](mailto:jobs@gbls.org)  
197 Friend Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
<http://www.mlassp.org/>

### **3. LSAC's LAW SCHOOL FORUMS**

Law School Forums are held in [cities](#) throughout the United States to give prospective law students an opportunity to talk personally with representatives from ABA-approved law schools. If you are thinking about law school, [Law School Forums](#) are an excellent resource for you. Most people spend from several hours up to an entire day at a forum. If you plan ahead, you will [get the most out of your forum experience \(PDF\)](#). This allows time to attend live [workshops](#) as well as time to talk with law school representatives. Prelaw advisors and LSAC Candidate Services representatives are also available to answer your questions on-site. Regardless of your age, background, and goals, the forums can help you answer important questions, such as:

- How does the admission process work?
- What is the best way to prepare for the LSAT?
- How can you finance your legal education?
- What law schools are best for you?
- Do you have the ability and educational background that will help you succeed in law school?
- What will a legal education train you to do?
- How is diversity encouraged in law school and the legal system?

Admission to all Law School Forums is free. By preregistering, you can save time at the forum and receive reminders and updates about the forums, including other great things to do in the cities where forums are being held.

## Law School Recruitment Forum Cities

- [Atlanta](#)
- [Bay Area](#)
- [Boston](#)
- [Chicago](#)
- [Houston](#)
- [Los Angeles](#)
- [Miami](#)
- [New York](#)
- [Washington, DC](#)
- [Canada \(Toronto, ON\)](#)

The largest of the forums is in DC, where representatives of over 180 LSAC-member law schools will be present.

The Annual Washington, DC Law School Forum will be held on **Saturday, June 16, 2012**. Workshops will be held from 9:00 am–4:00 pm; Law School Representatives will be available from 11:00 am–4:00 pm. The DC Law School Forum will be held in the Marriott Wardman Park in Woodley Park.

For more information, and to register for any of the forums, visit the following link:

<http://www.lsac.org/jd/Choose/forums-and-other-events.asp>

## 4. INTERVIEW: ART EISENBERG '64, LEGAL DIRECTOR, NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (NYCLU)

Arthur Eisenberg is the legal director of the New York Civil Liberties Union where he has worked for more than 35 years. During that time, he has been involved in more than 20 cases that were presented to the United States Supreme Court. He has litigated extensively around issues of free speech and voting rights. In recent years, Mr. Eisenberg has been increasingly involved in litigation concerning national security and civil liberties. He is currently involved in a challenge to the National Security Agency surveillance practices; the use of National Security letters by the FBI; the CIA's destruction of videotapes relating to interrogation practices; and the video surveillance of political activity by the NYPD. Among the Supreme Court cases that he has litigated are those involving questions of whether a state violates the First Amendment and the constitutional right to vote when it denies voters the right to cast write-in ballots (*Burdick v. Takushi*, 1992); whether a school board violated the First Amendment in removing 10 books from its high school library (*Island Trees Union Free School District v. Pico*, 1982); and whether the Indiana legislature engaged in unconstitutional political gerrymandering when it drew congressional district lines (*Davis v. Bandemer*, 1986).

Mr. Eisenberg is the co-author, with Burt Neuborne, of the *Rights of Candidates and Voters* (2nd ed. 1980). He has published law review articles on a range of topics including essays on Lani Guinier (Review Essay: The Millian Thoughts of Lani Guinier, 21 *New York University Review of Law and Social Change* 617 (1995)); on Robert Bork (Repaid In The Coin Of A Controversialist: The Bork Nomination Process, 58 *University of Cincinnati Law Review* 1319 (1990)); and on campaign finance reform (Civic Discourse, Campaign Finance Reform, and the Virtues of Moderation, 12 *Cardozo Studies in Law and Literature* 141 (2000)). He contributed an essay on issues of faith and conscience, "Accommodation and Coherence: In Search of a General Theory for Adjudicating Claims of Faith, Conscience and Culture," to the volume *Engaging Cultural Differences* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2002).

He has recently lectured on academic freedom at Columbia University and on civil liberties and national security at the University of Colorado, the University of Minnesota and the Cardozo Law School.

Mr. Eisenberg has served as chair of the New York State Task Force on Voter Registration and as a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York's Committee on Civil Rights, its Special Committee on Election Law, and its Task Force on the New York State Constitutional Convention.

Mr. Eisenberg earned his B.A. degree from The Johns Hopkins University and his J.D. from Cornell Law School. He has taught courses in constitutional litigation, civil rights law and constitutional law at Cardozo Law School and the University of Minnesota Law School.

**1. Describe a day in the life of the Legal Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU).**

The NYCLU is the New York State affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union. As its Legal Director, I administer the litigation program of the NYCLU and direct its staff of 14 lawyers. Today is a fairly typical day. I arrived at the office at about 9:45 am and prepared for a 10:00 am meeting on the subject of a possible lawsuit that two lawyers in my office are trying to develop. The suit will challenge the practice of the New York City Police Department in arresting and initiating the prosecutions of persons for possessing small amounts of marijuana in their pockets. Under New York law, possession of a small amount of marijuana is a violation but not a crime and not a basis for an arrest. But possession can result in the arrest and prosecution of an individual for a misdemeanor if even a small amount of marijuana is possessed in plain view or is found burning. The lawsuit that we are considering emerges out of the claim that police officers routinely reach into individuals' pockets or direct individuals to empty their pockets (both practices raise Fourth Amendment concerns) and when marijuana is brought into plain view, the police arrest the individual who is then charged with a misdemeanor instead of a violation. This morning I met with one of the lawyers who is developing the suit and with the Associate Legal Director of the NYCLU to discuss how the suit will be framed and what legal theories to pursue.

That meeting ended at 11:30 am, at which time I began reviewing a contract which the NYCLU is about to enter into with the New York State University at Albany governing the creation and maintenance of an archive that will contain all of the NYCLU public papers from its founding in 1951 to the present. In this regard, I began drafting comments and queries based upon my review of the contract.

At 12:45 pm, I returned two phone calls requesting that I agree to present lectures before various community groups. In returning the first call, I agreed to give a talk in mid-April on the topic of surveillance by the New York City Police Department of student groups and political organizations. In returning the second call, I agreed to present a talk in early June on the subject of campaign finance reform and Super PACs and the Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*.

At 1:00 pm I turned to a case that the NYCLU has been asked to join that involves a constitutional challenge to the unhealthy and abysmal conditions under which prisoners are being incarcerated at the Suffolk County correctional facilities. In this regard, I reviewed a draft of the complaint and then met with two lawyers from my office who will have principal responsibilities for pursuing the case. At the meeting I offered my comments on the draft and suggested various edits and strategic considerations. That meeting concluded at 2:15 pm. I then ate lunch at my desk from 2:15 to 2:30 pm. And I then met with an NYCLU lawyer and with the NYCLU Associate Legal Director to discuss a First Amendment lawsuit against the Suffolk County Police Department challenging policies of the SCPD that operated to prevent reporters and news crews from standing in sufficiently close proximity to crime scenes to allow meaningful reporting and filming of newsworthy events. That meeting ended at 3:15 pm.

At 3:30 pm, I reviewed a draft of a brief that a student of mine had prepared in connection with a course I teach at the Cardozo Law School entitled "Constitutional and Civil Rights Litigation." I completed reading the brief at 4:15 pm, at which time I met with a lawyer on the NYCLU legal staff who is preparing a style-book and handbook for use by the lawyers within the NYCLU Legal Department. The handbook will describe the protocols for opening and closing cases and will provide sample briefs, pleadings and other documents for use by NYCLU lawyers. I met with the lawyer preparing this handbook to review a preliminary outline of the book. At 5:00 pm, I called a lawyer who works in the New York City Law Department to discuss with him the use of various expert witnesses in a religious freedom/establishment clause case that he is pursuing. Finally, I turned to drafting this review of a typical day in the life of the NYCLU Legal Director and to answering the following questions as set forth below.

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

I was initially attracted to constitutional law as a result of a constitutional law course that I took as a Hopkins undergraduate that was taught by a distinguished constitutional historian, Carl B. Swisher. The course was quite rigorous and was among the best courses that I had at Hopkins and, it turned out, was far superior to the constitutional law course that I subsequently took in law school. Ever since that undergraduate course, I have remained deeply interested in constitutional theory, jurisprudence and history. It is a dynamic area of the law and one that deeply influences the rights and liberties that we enjoy within our constitutional democracy. The interpretation of our federal Constitution remains the source of deep public controversy and each Supreme Court term brings new issues and diverse cases from the constitutionality of Arizona's immigration law to limitations on student-speech to the constitutionality of Congress' Affordable Health Care enactment. The variety of constitutional issues makes my job endlessly interesting.

**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 principal disadvantage of my practice is that working for a non-profit organization means that salaries are far more modest than they are in the commercial marketplace. The reality of the profession is as I expected that it would be when I was in law school. To represent a client as completely and as vigorously as possible requires a great deal of time, care and conscientiousness. The lawyers that I know work long hours and truly devote themselves to their clients. But all of this is consistent with my expectations as a law student.

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

If you want to pursue this area of law the most common route is by working for a non-profit organization that undertakes constitutional cases. In some relatively rare cases, commercial practitioners have succeeded in carving out a niche as constitutional lawyers. An example is Floyd Abrams at Cahill, Gordon who practices First Amendment law because he often represents the New York Times and other media outlets. But the Floyd Abramses of this world are rare. The more common constitutional law practitioners work for non-profits at much lower salaries than would be earned by lawyers in large corporate firms who are engaged in the commercial practice of law.

**Contact Information:**

If you would like to learn more about the NYCLU, or if you have additional questions for Art Eisenberg, you may reach him using the following contact information:

Arthur Eisenberg  
Legal Director  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
125 Broad Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10004  
(212) 607-3324  
[Arteisenberg@nyclu.org](mailto:Arteisenberg@nyclu.org)

**5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming LSAT Administration**

**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**

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

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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.

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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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