



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

\*Best viewed in HTML\*

**Vol. 5, No. 4**

Friday, October 21, 2011 – Thursday, November 4, 2011

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

Those that took the October 2011 LSAT should be receiving their scores very soon. If you would like to discuss whether retaking the test makes sense for you, please schedule an appointment with me:

<https://www.securedatatrans10.com/ap/johnshopkinsuniversityofficeofpreprofessionalprogramsadvising/index.php?page=10>

Hope everyone is enjoying the Fall and has a Happy Halloween!

**2. MEDIA WATCH: “BEST PROFS, MOST COMPETITIVE STUDENTS AND OTHER HONORS”**

When considering what law schools to apply to, although it is important to note a school's ranking and published employment data (especially in the geographic area you hope to practice), there are many other factors that make a law school a good fit for a specific individual. As covered by the latest edition of "The National Jurist," *The Princeton Review* recently published survey results in 11 categories, based on responses from 18,000 students in attendance at 167 law schools. Although many of the categories top 10 lists included the usual suspects (law schools in the *U.S. News & World Report* top 10), there were several surprise/interesting number ones in multiple categories. For example, Chicago schools dominated the "Best Career Prospects" list, with Northwestern University and University of Chicago, placing No. 1 and No. 2 respectively. In the "Best Professors" category, "Boston University, known for its wide array of courses, seminars and clinical and externship programs, came in at No. 1, followed by Duke University."

To review the article in "The National Jurist," and see the number ones in each of the 11 categories, visit:

<http://www.nationaljurist.com/content/best-profs-most-competitive-students-and-other-honors>

**3. OPPORTUNITY: GAP YEAR (OR TWO) LAW FIRM PARALEGAL POSITIONS**

Recently, several of you have inquired about how to locate law firm paralegal positions to complete upon graduation, before law school. Although this information (below) is on our office website, I thought it would be helpful to highlight it again:

Many law firms offer formal paralegal/legal assistant programs for recent college graduates. Generally, the programs are for a two year term, include orientation/training, and assignment to a specific department. For those interested in these programs and working at a law firm upon graduation -- many of which are located in DC or NYC -- be sure to take a look at the links listed below:

Arnold & Porter: [http://www.arnoldporter.com/careers\\_legal\\_support\\_services.cfm](http://www.arnoldporter.com/careers_legal_support_services.cfm)

Clearly Gottlieb: <http://www.cgsh.com/careers/?recruitingID=2134>  
 Covington: <http://www.cov.com/careers/washington/staff/paralegals/>  
 Akin Gump: <http://www.akingump.com/careers/staff/>  
 Cravath: <http://www.cravath.com/staff/legalassistants/>  
 Davis Polk: <http://www.davispolk.com/careers/staff/>  
 DeBevoise: <http://www.debevoise.com/legalassistants/>  
 Dewey & LeBoeuf: <http://deweyleboeuf.com/en/Careers/UnitedStates/Paralegals.aspx>  
 Hogan Lovells: [http://www.hoganlovells.com/careers/staff\\_paralegal.aspx](http://www.hoganlovells.com/careers/staff_paralegal.aspx)  
 Holland & Knight LLP: <http://www.hklaw.com/id25/>  
 Kirkland & Ellis LLP: <http://www.kirkland.com/sitecontent.cfm?contentID=283>  
 Mintz, Levin: <http://mintz.com/careers.php>  
 Morgan, Lewis: <http://www.morganlewis.com/index.cfm/nodeID/74DB57CE-AD61-4DFC-8B9C-B249F20A6EEC/fuseaction/content.page>  
 Paul, Weiss: <http://www.paulweiss.com/careers/paralegal/>  
 Shearman & Sterling LLP: <http://www.shearman.com/usla/firm/>  
 Sidley Austin: <http://www.sidley.com/careers/northamerica/staff/>  
 Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP: <http://www.stblaw.com/sitecontent.cfm?contentID=24&itemID=272>  
 Skadden: <http://www.skadden.com/Index.cfm?contentID=26>  
 Sullivan & Cromwell: <http://www.sullcrom.com/careers/assistants/overview/>  
 White & Case LLP: <http://www.whitecase.com/careers/northamerica/legalassistants/careerpath/>  
 Willkie: <http://www.willkie.com/recruiting/recruiting.aspx>

This is just a sampling of firms that hire recent graduates; be sure to conduct additional research on your own. Also, note that these firms may have offices in additional cities. Use the above firm websites as a starting point to come up with a list of firms in your preferred city!

#### **4. INTERVIEW: JOY CLINKSCALES, ATTORNEY-ADVISOR, CDFI FUND, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY**



Joy Clinkscales is currently an Attorney-Advisor in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Treasury, for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI). In this capacity, Ms. Clinkscales drafts and negotiates agreements to support and memorialize investments by the Fund to community development lending and investments institutions. She has been with Treasury for almost 10 years. From April 2007 to December 2008, Ms. Clinkscales served as General Counsel and Vice-President of VEC Financial Group, a then start-up company in the technology and financial services industry. From October 2000 to November 2001, Ms. Clinkscales was a contract attorney with Kellogg, Huber, Hanson, Todd, Evans & Figel, PLLC, where she worked on complex telecommunications litigation.

Ms. Clinkscales obtained her J.D. from The American University, Washington College of Law, and her B.A. in History and English from Emory University. While in law school, Ms. Clinkscales held positions at the U.S. Department of State and Crowley, Hige & Fein, P.C., both in Washington, D.C. She was also a semi-finalist in the Upper-class Moot Court Competition and a member of the International Law Society and the Business Law Society. While an undergraduate, Ms. Clinkscales spent Spring of her junior year abroad thru the Institute of Shipboard Education, Semester at Sea, where she travelled to Venezuela, Brazil, South Africa, Kenya, India, Philippines, Hong Kong, Japan and Vietnam.

Joy Clinkscales is member of The State Bar of Georgia and the National Bar Association.

**1) Describe a day in the life of an Attorney-Advisor for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, U.S. Department of Treasury:**

A typical day consists of drafting/reading investment agreements or amendments, advising our program staff on noncompliant companies for which the CDFI Fund holds investments, meeting with program staff to develop policies and notices of funding availability for future investment rounds, advising staff on various federal government regulations that apply to the CDFI Fund's activities.

**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 a student attorney in the CEDLC during law school and really have a passion for economic development and improving economically depressed communities. As for some of the rewards, its mission driven, and the work is pretty sophisticated transactional work. As a government attorney, I was given a lot of responsibility early on which has helped me to develop professionally.

**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?**

We are government funded through annual appropriations and are subject to the political climate of Congress. The work is a lot more transactional, sophisticated and regulatory than I imagined.

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

Just get a well rounded education that allows you to take classes that interest you and help you to improve your writing, speaking and analytical skills. It's never too early to begin networking. If interested in law, try to obtain an internship in a law office of a law firm, government agency or corporation. Identify mentors in the legal profession and attend conferences (usually free for students) to gain exposure to the field of law.

**Contact Information:**

If you would like to learn more about the CDFI Fund, visit: <http://www.cdfifund.gov/>, or, if you have additional questions for Ms. Clinkscales, you may contact her at: [joy.clinkscales@gmail.com](mailto:joy.clinkscales@gmail.com)

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

**Howard University School of Law Information Session**

**Location:** Mattin 161

**Date:** November 2, 2011

**Time:** 1-2p

**Description:** Marchlena Rodgers, Assistant Director of Admissions, will present an info session on Howard University School of Law.

**Georgetown University Law Center Group Interview**

**Location:** Sherwood Room, Levering Hall

**Date:** November 2, 2011

**Time:** 3-4p

**Description:** Andy Cornblatt, Associate Vice President (Graduate Admissions Programs and Enrollment) & Dean of Admissions, Georgetown University Law Center, will conduct a group interview. Prior registration required.

**Upcoming LSAT Administration for 2011/2012**

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

**Date:** Saturday, December 3, 2011/Saturday, February 11, 2012/Monday, June 11, 2012

**Time:** Registration begins at 8.30a for the December 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

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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