



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 5, No. 6

Friday, November 18, 2011 – Thursday, December 1, 2011

- ~~~~~
- 1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.**
 - 2. Media Watch: Justices to Hear Health Care Case**
 - 3. When Contemplating Where to Apply to Law School, Consider this: New Study Shows that Most Big Firm Partners Went to Local Law Schools**
 - 4. Interview: Adriana V. Tibbitts (JHU '04), Corporate Associate, Hogan Lovells**
 - 5. Upcoming Pre-Law Student Meeting & Program Announcements**
- ~~~~~

1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Several of you who applied this cycle have already received some admissions decisions. It is great to hear the good news and also how things are being narrowed down for each of you. Please remember to keep me posted on your outcomes!

Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

2. MEDIA WATCH: JUSTICES TO HEAR HEALTH CARE CASE

This past Monday, November 14, 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear a challenge to the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Court scheduled 5-1/2 hours of oral argument (a modern record) to consider several issues related to this major health reform law.

The following is University of Washington School of Law [Prof. Sallie Sanford](#)'s quick summary of the Court's orders:

1. The granted petitions all relate to the 11th Circuit's decision, which struck down the individual mandate. This is a case brought by 26 states, a business association and a few individuals.
2. The Court will hear arguments on the constitutionality of the requirement that nearly all citizens have health insurance or pay a penalty (the "individual mandate").
3. Another issue to be considered is whether some or all of the rest of the ACA must fall if the individual mandate is unconstitutional.
4. A third issue is the constitutionality of the ACA's expansion of Medicaid to cover all citizens under 133% of the federal poverty line.
5. Finally, the Court will also consider whether the Anti-Injunction Act renders premature the individual mandate challenge.
6. A hearing date has not been set, but it is likely to be in late March.

For more details, Professor Sanford recommends Lyle Denniston's post on [SCOTUSBlog](#).

Additional information on the case, and its relation to the Presidential race, can be found at the following *The New York Times* article link: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/15/us/supreme-court-to-hear-case-challenging-health-law.html?_r=1&pagewanted=print

3. WHEN CONTEMPLATING WHERE TO APPLY TO LAW SCHOOL, CONSIDER THIS: NEW STUDY SHOWS THAT MOST BIG FIRM PARTNERS WENT TO LOCAL LAW SCHOOLS

Ted Seto, a Professor of Taxation at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles conducted a comprehensive study which examined where partners at the nation's largest law firms attended law school. Professor Seto created a database of 48,103 partners nationwide, narrowing it down to partners who graduated in the past 25 years and who were from one of the nation's 100 largest law firms.

The study concluded that hiring by national law firms is incredibly local.

Further, when reviewing the top 11 regions (including New York, D.C., and Boston) the results are even more pronounced and indicate the extent to which law schools have established feeder relationships in their geographic area. Moreover, when looking beyond the top 100 largest firms to the next 150 in size the hiring is even more locally focused.

For those of you who know exactly where you want to be upon graduation from law school, consider this advice: "If you know where you want to practice, go to school there," [Seto] said. "That is just absolutely critical. It is much better to go to Loyola Los Angeles than Vanderbilt if you want to practice in L.A." It should be noted, however, that Harvard made the list in all 11 regions, Georgetown showed in 9 regions, and Columbia and the University of Michigan Law School in 5.

To read the article in full, and to review the top 11 regions with their respective partner procuring and ranked law school lists, visit the following link:

<http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/cypress/nationaljurist1111/#/16>

4. INTERVIEW: ADRIANA VERLEYSSEN TIBBITTS (JHU '04), CORPORATE ASSOCIATE, HOGAN LOVELLS



Adriana Verleysen Tibbitts practices in the areas of corporate, securities, and general business law at Hogan Lovells' Baltimore office. Adriana was a Summer Associate at Hogan & Hartson in 2007 and 2008.

Adriana received her J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Maryland (UMD) School of Law in 2009. While in law school, Adriana received a Health Law Certificate and was a Scholarship Recipient through the Leadership Scholars Program. Additionally, she was an Intern with University Physicians, Inc. at UMD School of Medicine the Spring of 2008 and a Teaching Fellow for the first year legal writing course Fall 2007, Spring 2008, and Fall 2008. The Summer of 2008, Adriana was also a Summer Associate at Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll LLP, in Philadelphia.

For two years prior to attending law school, Adriana worked as a Trial Clerk at the United States Tax Court in Washington, D.C.

Adriana graduated with general honors from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in 2004, with a B.A. in Public Health. While at JHU, she completed the Public Health Study Abroad Program in Cuba the Summer of 2002, was an Admissions Assistant in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions the Summers of 2003 and 2004, and was the Coordinator of the Program in Latin Studies from Winter 2001 to the Spring of 2004.

Adriana V. Tibbitts is a member of the Bar of Maryland.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of a Corporate Associate.

There is no typical workday in my practice, which is one of the things that I really appreciate about my practice. On most days I spend at least a portion of time on the phone or in meetings with colleagues and clients. Some of the most interesting work evolves out of these conversations when you least expect it.

2) What did you pursue during your law school summers and before beginning your current position? How did you go about researching these opportunities?

I worked as a summer associate at large law firms both law school summers. I was fortunate enough to obtain these positions as part of my law school's on campus interview program. I did do a good amount of research about the various employers interviewing at my law school and targeted my applications based upon the practice areas that caught my interest.

3) What initially attracted you to your current field?

I was always interested in a legal career and initially considered combining my JD with an MPH. In order to determine whether law school was the right path for me, I took a position with the U.S. Tax Court as a Trial Clerk after I graduated from Hopkins. I had an amazing experience at the Tax Court, and it was an easy decision to apply to law school. When I initially entered law school, I was convinced that I would be a litigator. During my 2L summer, I bonded with a female partner in the corporate group at my firm and decided to make the switch to a transactional practice. Because lawyers tend to have a packed schedule filled with long hours, I have found that who you work with is almost more important than the area of practice. I have since found several other mentors in the corporate group at my firm and do not regret choosing a transactional practice. In recent months I have been focusing my work on clients in the life sciences industry which has been a wonderful way to incorporate my interest in public health and health law.

4) How would you compare the reality of law school and the ensuing job search to the picture you had of it while an undergraduate?

I did not have a lot of exposure to the legal community prior to entering law school, so I did not go into the experience expecting any particular career path. Many of my classmates at law school did have certain expectations which in some cases were unrealistic given the downturn in the economy at the time that I graduated from law school. I was fortunate enough to have a job offer at a large firm after graduating. Most of my friends have found good positions, but, in some cases, it took at least 6 months to get a job offer.

5) What was your favorite law school class, and why? How did you go about choosing classes after your first year of law school?

I took several classes as a 2L purely out of curiosity. I really enjoyed my torts, employment discrimination and privacy law classes. After I completed my 2L summer and knowing that I would be joining the corporate group at my current firm, I targeted my 3L classes to ones that would be most useful for the purposes of my current practice, including corporations, securities law, and mergers and acquisitions.

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

I did not pursue many law related opportunities as an undergraduate. My position at the U.S. Tax Court after I graduated from Hopkins was my first legal job. I think what strengthened my law school application was my work experience at the Tax Court and the consistency on my resume. Because I worked at least one job at all times as an undergraduate due to financial need, I was forced to focus my extracurricular activities in one or two areas (public health, Latin American studies) rather than participating in a broad array of activities. This focused my resume and made it easier for me to pull everything together on my law school application and provide a clear purpose as to why I had decided to go to law school and why I was interested in health law in particular. I am on the recruiting committee at my law firm, and, from personal experience, I generally prefer a focused resume with at least some work experience.

7) What made you choose University of Maryland Law School of Law (UMD), and did it meet your expectations? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school, and, particularly, UMD?

UMD has a great health law program, which was one of the most important criteria in my law school search. I had a wonderful experience at UMD.

8) Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in pursuing law school and a career in law given your experience in today's legal market and now as a young associate?

I think it is important to think about where you want to live after law school, as the best job opportunities are typically found within the law school's same geographic region. Law school can open up a lot of opportunities, but it is not for everyone.

My experience has not been the norm, and I have been fortunate enough to be able to have a well-paying job upon graduation that I really enjoy. I would encourage anyone who thinks that they may want to go to law school to try working in the legal field and experience adult life (bills, rent, loan payments and all) first. While law school is the right choice for many people and can lead to a rewarding career, it is a mentally and financially stressful experience. I am glad that I gave myself the opportunity to determine that it was the right choice for me before heading off to law school.

One of the cons of law school is, like any graduate school, you put your life on hold for a few years to complete your training. Once you graduate, it takes at least a few years to establish yourself professionally. I didn't focus on that too much when I was 24 and decided to go to law school. I will be 30 soon and just recently stopped living like a student when my husband and I purchased our first house. When I first started at Hopkins as a freshman, I thought I would be farther along in life at 30. I am also starting to think about having a family and how that may impact my career. These are all issues that I urge any student who is considering going to law school to consider.

Contact Information:

If you would like to learn more about corporate law, Hogan Lovells, or if you have additional questions for Adriana V. Tibbitts, you may contact her by email at adriana.tibbitts@hoganlovells.com; her direct extension is (410) 659-2718.

Visit her firm's website at: <http://www.hoganlovells.com/>

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

~~~~~  
**STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING**

Ana L. Droscoski, 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 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

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.

Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.  
Associate Director  
Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

Johns Hopkins University  
Garland Hall Suite 300  
3400 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Tel: 410.516.4140  
Fax: 410.516.4040  
email: [adrosco1@jhu.edu](mailto:adrosco1@jhu.edu)  
[web.jhu.edu/prepro](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro)