



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 5, No. 7

Friday, December 2, 2011 – Thursday, December 15, 2011

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

This will be the final Pre-Law e-Newsletter of 2011.

Registration for Intersession 2012 opens on Tuesday, December 6th. "The Practice of Law," now in its third year, will meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 1 to 3pm, January 10 to 20, 2012. This course is designed to familiarize students with the world of the law and legal practice options, through the eyes of Johns Hopkins University alumni and/or local, Baltimore-area community members who are attorneys. The course will tentatively focus on the following legal specialties: Corporate Law, Entertainment Law, Public Interest Law, Employment and Labor Law, and Criminal Law. This year, there will be a first year attorney/young associate panel, to provide insight into the current legal job market for recent law school graduates.

Happy Holidays!

2. MEDIA WATCH: SHOULD LAW SCHOOLS TEACH TO PRACTICE OR REMAIN FOCUSED ON THEORY?

There has been much discussion regarding the current law school curriculum and its disconnect from legal practice. Some argue that because the law and legal practice is ever evolving -- with increasing rapidity due to globalization -- graduating law students who are simply practice ready is too myopic. Additionally, legal practice nuances can be best learned on the job, which can take several years.

More often lately, arguments have been made to push practical skill focus and training into the law school curriculum. At its root, this argument is client driven, as clients refuse to pay high rates to train new lawyers. Many think that law schools should teach what is going on in the legal system today, not at its inception, so that recent graduates can hit the ground running once employed.

However, a shift in this direction can go against a law school's and law professor's traditional focus on scholarship and publications, as scholarship is directly linked to a law school's reputation.

Although law schools have increased their clinic program offerings and focus, with many schools adding more skill based coursework, the debate continues. There is no plan to turn the traditional law school curriculum on its head in the near future.

To read more discussion on the current law school curriculum in relation to practice, visit the following article links:

There's More to the Law Than 'Practice-Ready'

<http://chronicle.com/article/Theres-More-to-the-Law-Than/129493/>

Are Law Schools and Bar Exams Necessary?

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/25/opinion/are-law-schools-and-bar-exams-necessary.html?_r=1

After Law School, Associates Learn to Be Lawyers

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/20/business/after-law-school-associates-learn-to-be-lawyers.html?_r=2

3. OPPORTUNITY: COMMUNITY IMPACT SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

The Community Impact Internships Program (CIIP) is a competitive, paid summer internship program that pairs JHU undergraduate students with community agencies to work on community-identified projects. Participating interns attend an extensive orientation and work 30 hours a week for eight weeks while participating in weekly reflection sessions. Each participating student receives a \$5,000 stipend.

The goal of this program is two-fold: to give JHU undergraduates an opportunity to be directly involved in a community in Baltimore City and to support the important work being done by nonprofits and government agencies. For more information about the Community Impact Internships Program, visit: <http://www.jhu.edu/csc/ciip.shtml>

Applications are due December 31st, 2011.

Applications are available at: <http://www.jhu.edu/csc/CIIP/CIIPApplication2012.pdf>

For more information, contact: Abby Neyenhouse, Assistant Director for Community and Nonprofit Internships, phone: 410-516-4238/email: aneyenh1@jhu.edu

4. INTERVIEW: ANDREA DODRILL (JHU '08), INSURANCE DEFENSE/PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION ATTORNEY, OFFICES OF H. BARRITT PETERSON & ASSOCIATES

Andrea Dodrill is currently transitioning from intern to attorney, representing clients in insurance defense/personal injury litigation matters for the Offices of H. Barritt Peterson & Associates, a law firm representing State Farm Insurance.

Andrea received her J.D. in May 2011 from the University of Baltimore Law School. She interned at the Offices of H. Barritt Peterson & Associates throughout her law school career.

Andrea received her B.A. from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in May 2008, where she double majored in the History of Art and English. She was member of the JHU Women's Basketball team, where she served as co-captain her senior year. During the summers throughout college, Andrea participated in a variety of internships that related to her interest in local government. Since she grew up in Towson, Maryland, Andrea procured internships via family and friends who knew of opportunities. These experiences included a Congressional internship at the District Office of my Congressman, an internship at the Baltimore County Executive's Office, and a volunteer internship with the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office. The summer before her senior year, Andrea interned for an educational publishing firm in Hampden/Baltimore to explore a career more closely related to her English major. Following that summer, she was convinced that law school would be her post-graduation goal. However, Andrea found the publishing firm internship experience valuable and interesting, especially because it helped her flesh out her career goals.

Andrea Dodrill will be admitted to the Bar of Maryland on December 13, 2011.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of an Insurance Defense/Personal Injury Litigation Attorney.

As an intern, my primary duties included performing legal research and drafting motions for the Court. As an attorney, I will be representing clients who have been sued as a result of automobile accidents or premises liability incidents.

2) What initially attracted you to your current field?

After interning at the State's Attorney's Office, I was convinced that I wanted to be a trial attorney. Although civil litigation is very different from criminal litigation, I am attracted to the adversarial nature of trial work (maybe this has something to do with my days as a basketball player).

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

I enjoyed torts and civil procedure in law school (mainly because of the crossover between my internship and the classroom). I was much more in tune with the practical application of those classes as a result of my experience in my internship.

I tried to choose classes that interested me, but I made sure to take bar tested classes. After studying for the bar exam this summer, I am certain that I did not waste my time taking subjects (like commercial law) that were uninspiring, yet appeared on the bar exam.

4) 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 really enjoyed working at the State's Attorney's office. Being in an environment where I had interaction with a lot of lawyers and actually seeing what their day was like was the factor that made me certain that I wanted to go to law school.

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

University of Baltimore is touted as a school that teaches the "practical" aspects of the law. I wasn't sure what that meant until I had more interaction with the professors (most who are real life lawyers practicing the law) during my second and third year.

I also had the opportunity to participate in a "Clinic" my third year of law school. I participated in the Civil Advocacy Clinic, working with other students and professors representing low income individuals in various disputes (i.e. landlord/tenant and public benefits issues). Having the chance to represent actual clients in court as a "student attorney" was certainly a learning experience. Mainly, I enjoyed interacting with my clients and really helping them work through their issue. I would suggest looking into clinic opportunities at the law schools to which you apply.

6) 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 first year associate?

Be realistic. Be realistic not only about where you can get accepted to law school, but what you can afford. Attending University of Baltimore meant that I could live at home, saving me at least \$30,000. Also, think now about where you want to practice law. If you see yourself practicing in California, University of Baltimore may not be a viable option.

Be realistic about where you want to study law. Studying law in the state where you want to practice has many advantages. For example, the curriculum at University of Baltimore tended to focus on Maryland law (which was very helpful for the bar exam!). Also, going to school locally makes it more likely that internship opportunities will lead to employment after law school.

Contact Information:

If you would like to learn more about insurance defense/personal injury litigation or if you have additional questions for Andrea Dodrill, you may contact her by email at andrea.dodrill1@gmail.com or by office phone at: 410.832.8019.

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 410-516-6744

For students whose last name begins with A-L, contact Mrs. Krause.

LaTonia Sanders, Administrative Coordinator, 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

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

web.jhu.edu/prepro