



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

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Friday, September 14, 2012 – Thursday, September 27, 2012

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1. **Message from Ana L. Droskoski, Esq.**
 2. **Law School Admissions News & Updates**
 3. **CLEO Connection**
 4. **Interview: Adam Lippe '95, Assistant State's Attorney and Chief, Economic | Cyber Crime Unit, Office of the State's Attorney, Baltimore County, Maryland**
 5. **Upcoming Pre-Law Student Meeting & Program Announcements**
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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

To the freshmen and transfer students -- welcome to Hopkins! To the returning students -- welcome back! Hope everyone had a great summer.

Some approaching events of note are: the 2012 JHU Constitutional Forum on Thursday, September 20 and the Johns Hopkins University 2012 Law School Fair, on Monday, October 8. For complete details on each event, please see section 5. Hope to see you at both events.

2. LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS NEWS & UPDATES

LSAC has released a helpful chart that graphs the drop in law school applicants over the past 3 years:

http://www.lsac.org/lisacresources/data/three-year-volume.asp?goback=%2Egde_3276613_member_161702389

Specific national data is as follows: "As of 08/08/12, there are 469,642 Fall 2012 applications submitted by 67,957 applicants. Applicants are down 13.7% and applications are down 12.5% from 2011." As the graph demonstrates, applicants to law school have been decreasing each year since the Fall 2010 entrance class. Applicant data from the Fall 2013 entrance class is currently accruing.

Some law schools have responded to these decreases by relaxing standards and admitting applicants that would likely not have been admitted in past years. Some law schools have cut class size. Some have opted for a combination of both. A June 11, 2012 article in *The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) by Joe Palazzolo and Chelsea Phipps entitled, "With Profession Under Stress, Law Schools Cut Admissions," states that "...experts say that the planned reductions by at least 10 of the roughly 200 law schools accredited in the U.S., suggest a new reality is sinking in: The legal profession may never return to its prerecession prosperity."

Entry level attorneys face special challenges in the current legal job market. According to a survey by NALP, 2011 law school graduates met employment rates at an 18 year low, where 86% of the graduates found jobs, less than 66% of which required a license to practice law.

To read the WSJ article in full, visit:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303444204577458411514818378.html>

3. CLEO CONNECTION

CLEO is a non-profit project of the American Bar Association. Since 1968, CLEO has helped more than 7,000 low-income and minority students become successful members of the legal profession. The College Scholars Program seeks to continue this standard of excellence through a collaborative effort between CLEO and colleges and universities throughout the United States.

The [CLEO CONNECTION](#) program provides a person-to-person environment where under-represented students can:

- Find answers to important questions about law school,
- Create a local network of colleagues and legal professional guides, and
- Develop an understanding of the legal field culture

When: October 11, 2012 (Thursday) 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Where: Washington, D.C.

How: Register for FREE. Click here: [CLEO Connection website](#)

CLEO's aims to engage under-represented prelaw students in lively, in person discussion with peers, law school faculty, and attorneys. It is a great program to take advantage of, if you can.

4. INTERVIEW: ADAM LIPPE '95, ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY & CHIEF, ECONOMIC | CYBER CRIME UNIT, OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY, BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Adam Lippe is an Assistant State's Attorney and Chief, Economic | Cyber Crimes Unit in the Office of the State's Attorney, in Baltimore County, Maryland, where he has worked for the past 14 years. He has prosecuted over 40 jury trials, hundreds of court trials and suppression hearings involving murder, drug trafficking, sex offense, armed robbery, burglary, theft, arson, dogfighting, animal cruelty, drunk driving and vehicular manslaughter, and prosecuted and secured convictions in over 500 felony cases in Baltimore County, as well as hundreds of misdemeanor and juvenile cases. Additionally, from 2007 to 2009, Mr. Lippe served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Maryland, where he secured a conviction for embezzlement over \$1 million and arson of a large office building, while working with agents from the FBI, ATF and local officers. He was a Target Corporation "Law Enforcement Partnership Award" recipient in October 2008 and January 2011, a Social Security Administration "Philadelphia Regional Anti-Fraud Award" recipient in August 2008, and a Maryland State's Attorney Association scholarship recipient in 2002.

Mr. Lippe earned his B.A. degree with general and departmental honors in Political Science from The Johns Hopkins University. He earned his J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law, where he was the Editor-in-Chief of the Maryland Journal of International Law & Trade and a member of the moot court board. He has taught courses in many areas of criminal law, in business law, and appellate advocacy, among others, at the University of Maryland School of Law, the University of Baltimore School of Law and various Baltimore area universities. He also edits and provides study content for multiple, national bar exam preparation companies.

Adam Lippe is admitted to practice in Maryland and New Jersey.

1) Describe a day in the life as an Assistant State's Attorney and Chief of the Economic | Cyber Crime Unit.

I am a career prosecutor, having been a violent crimes and narcotics prosecutor for some time before moving to the position I have now as the chief of the Economic | Cyber Crime Unit for the past seven years.

What I do on a daily basis is try to solve problems, organize investigations and direct investigators, agents and officers on what to do to build good cases. I still handle murder cases, and I can tell you that securing a conviction is very satisfying on a lot of levels, including doing justice for the victim and their

family, as well as protecting the rest of society. It is rewarding to know that I am making a difference, that I can help give voice to someone who cannot.

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

I have been an attorney since 1998, and I liked to talk and explain my positions ever since high school. You can craft an argument, reinforce your beliefs and persuade others with the facts and the law. I have always wanted to become a lawyer and use my mind. The rewards of legal training, in going to law school, are that you can always find the answers to many of life's questions. You learn critical thinking and how to organize your thoughts. Legal training is useful for many other applications than being a courtroom lawyer. For this reason, law school is an excellent investment.

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?

For lawyers, and especially criminal lawyers, the downsides are the facts of the cases which are sometimes emotionally upsetting. You are thrust into the lives of other people, and become a part of their story. If you do not have empathy for victims or witnesses, or a passion to do the right thing rather than the most convenient, then you will burn out in a short time. There is a lot of pain that lawyers are asked to help resolve. It is rewarding when you can actually do something. It is not always possible to win every case, but giving a victim his or her day in court, to tell their story, is often worth it.

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

What I would recommend is for someone interested in learning more about becoming a lawyer is to go to any courthouse and see what lawyers actually do. It is not like television, but there is a lot that can happen in trials which is worth a student seeing. An internship will help a student decide. Also talking with lawyers about what they do, will give them a perspective and establish reasonable expectations as to what law school is like and how a career can be made. Being a lawyer is not a job, it is a profession ... and this means you can move around to find the right fit handling all sorts of cases and clients.

Contact Information:

If you would like to learn more about the criminal law, the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore County, or if you have additional questions for Adam Lippe, you may reach him using the following contact information:

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5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming LSAT Administration

Location: Check with LSAC for testing locations (next on campus/JHU LSAT administration – Saturday, October 6, 2012).

Date: October 6, 2012/Saturday, December 1, 2012/Saturday, February 9, 2013/Saturday, June 10, 2013/Monday

Time: Registration begins at 8.30a for the October exam – consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

2012 JHU Constitutional Forum

Location: Mason Hall Auditorium

Date: Thursday, September 20, 2012

Time: 8pm

Description: To commemorate the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, Professor Pamela S. Karlan, Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Professor of Public Interest Law and Co-Director of the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic at Stanford Law School, will deliver a talk entitled "Democracy and Disdain." This event is free and open to the public. Professor Karlan's biography can be found here: <http://www.law.stanford.edu/node/166368>

Johns Hopkins University 2012 Law School Fair

Location: Charles Common Banquet Room

Date: Monday, October 8, 2012

Time: 2:30pm to 5:30pm

Description: Admissions representatives of law schools from around the U.S. will be on hand to meet and speak with interested, potential applicants.

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**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

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The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:

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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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