



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

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

If you are an under-represented student interested in admission to and success in law school, check out the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO)'s Achieving Success in the Application Process (ASAP) Prelaw Seminars this summer!

The ASAP program curriculum will focus on aspects of the law school application process that are commonly overlooked or undervalued by students when applying to law school. For more information, visit the following link:

<http://www.cleoscholars.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=518&grandparentID=483&parentID=495&nodeID=2>

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

With all the discussion (and lawsuits) in the past few years regarding law school employment statistics for recent graduates, the chart in this April 9, 2013 article by Jordan Weissmann in *The Atlantic* (see link below) offers an interesting perspective, ranking law schools by employment statistics (i.e., by "lowest underemployment rates") while cross referencing each law school's USNWR rankings.

"The Jobs Crisis at Our Best Law Schools Is Much, Much Worse Than You Think: at some top tier schools, more than a fifth of students are underemployed"

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/04/the-jobs-crisis-at-our-best-law-schools-is-much-worse-than-you-think/274795/>

3. OPPORTUNITY: GAP YEAR (OR TWO) LAW FIRM PARALEGAL/LEGAL ASSISTANT POSITIONS

Many of you have inquired about gap year opportunities and how to locate law firm paralegal positions to complete upon graduation. 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

Clearly Gottlieb: <http://www.cgsh.com/careers/?recruitingID=2134>

Covintgton: <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/legalsupportservices/>

Hogan Lovells: http://www.hoganlovells.com/careers/staff_paralegal.aspx

Holland & Knight LLP: <http://www.hklaw.com/Careers/Jobs/>

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/paralegals/litigation-paralegal-job-description.aspx>

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/career/assistants>

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: ADAM HALPER '99, CORPORATE ATTORNEY, PROSKAUER ROSE



Adam F. Halper is an Associate at Proskauer Rose in the Corporate Department of the New York office. As a member of the Mergers & Acquisitions Group, Mr. Halper's practice focuses on public and private mergers and acquisitions by financial and strategic buyers and sellers across a broad array of industries including automotive, pharmaceutical and other health products, consumer goods, financial services, alternative investments, transportation.

Mr. Halper has also had significant roles in diverse representations including multibillion dollar cross-border restructurings and internal restructurings, and other transactions involving investment vehicles and private equity funds.

In addition to his transactional work, Mr. Halper counsels high-profile clients in regulatory compliance matters, including public disclosure, preparation of periodic and current reports, registration statements and other submissions to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Mr. Halper also regularly counsels clients in corporate governance, corporate law developments and other general corporate matters.

Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Halper was an Associate in the Mergers & Acquisitions Department of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Mr. Halper also served as a Staff Attorney with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Division of Corporation Finance.

Mr. Halper received his *Juris Doctor* from Washington University School of Law in 2004 and his *Bachelor of Arts* from The Johns Hopkins University in 1999.

Adam Halper is a member of the New York State Bar.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of a Corporate Attorney at Proskauer Rose in NYC.

One of the most interesting and challenging parts of my job is that I rarely know what the day may bring. Activities can vary widely, from participating in an unexpected early morning call with clients in Asia on a U.S. filing, to addressing a crisis resulting from a client's chief competitor announcing a hostile takeover. Like many NY attorneys, my day starts after 9AM but typically lasts until late in the evening. I generally wake up to a slew of emails and my morning log-in to my email account from home dictates my schedule more than the plans set the prior day. Once I arrive in the office I spend a good portion of the day on calls and in meetings trying to work through general issues with the client or with opposing counsel. There may also be a discussion of the specific language within agreements or other documents to effectuate the business agreements from the day before. As the evening progresses the process of

turning conceptual business understandings into legal documentation begins in earnest. In light of the nature of my work, it is common that one client in the throes of a significant M&A transaction may take up my entire day, so at the end of the night I try to address (or find someone more appropriate to address) the less time sensitive requests of other clients.

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

I told a potential freshman year academic advisor (who specialized in electoral theory) I would never consider law school, and I needed an advisor with a real understanding of D.C. politics. However, as I neared graduation I was torn as to the best career path and tried to find a field that combined my interest of reading, business and public policy (for someone not enthralled by numbers) and I was directed by a few people into M&A/Securities law. I looked for jobs out of Hopkins as a paralegal at a law firm so I could determine if M&A/Securities law was a potentially compatible career path.

I discovered that in an M&A transaction because there is not usually a judge or regulatory body overlooking your work, there is significant leeway for creative parties to come to a mutually beneficial solution. In addition, since a large transaction may involve labor, antitrust, litigation and numerous other legal specialties, as a junior M&A lawyer you are exposed very early on to a broad experience.

I think many of the best attorneys truly understand that lawyers are part of a profession with higher intellectual and ethical standards than an average job. For all the perceived yelling and screaming among lawyers there is still a basic code that most everyone adheres to (except for a few bad apples), and this is one of the main reasons I became an attorney.

M&A is high profile and it is interesting, not only to see your work in the media but also to know that your transaction and the structure you created could potentially impact an entire industry or technology.

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 hours and work are very unpredictable. You may have a slow week and at 8:00 p.m. on a Friday have a crisis that takes the entire weekend to rectify; or you may cancel a long-planned and impossible to reschedule vacation to work around the clock on a transformative merger only to have the deal die a few days after you cancelled the vacation. I used to make more plans on Tuesday nights than Friday nights. Also, if you dream of living Law & Order, this is not the field for you. I was on one transaction which required my presence in a courtroom (the same number of times I have been required to appear at court for jury duty).

The reality of my profession was in line with what I generally expected in school (4 years later). I was very interested in M&A/Securities in school and engaged in a bit of research and spoke with members of my network (including Hopkins alumni) to gain that understanding. However, for underclassmen especially, technology has rapidly transformed the business and practice of law the way it has transformed other industries (some people forget that). The pace of this transformation is only quickening and therefore, unlike someone starting an analyst program, what you have signed up for the day you graduate Hopkins may be different (hopefully for the better) than when you begin practice after law school.

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

If I were forced to give up my practice, I would hope that, with my M&A experience, I could more easily move to another area of the law, into a business position or go back to working for the government. The transferability of skills was an important factor in specializing in M&A. M&A involves a lot of interaction between the business and legal teams, and the negotiation and drafting skills I developed are transferable to other areas. Not everything works as planned and I always think it is important to prepare for having to deviate from the best laid career plans. The practice of law is getting more and more specialized but general skills such as client service and oral and written presentation skills are transferable no matter the field and these skills are some of the first emphasized to junior M&A lawyers.

I always have two things I tell Hopkins students when they ask for guidance:

1. I caution against the “go to law school and then figure it out route” if you can’t decide what to do after Hopkins. The cost of legal education has risen enormously (not even taking into account any lost opportunity for three years). Unless you have really examined your desire to go law school you should strongly consider waiting. Frankly, for many junior lawyers it is and will be even more difficult in the future to depart from the legal profession if you realize later on it is not right for you. If you are interested in IP law, working for an entity that licenses music will be an invaluable practical skill and there are life changing public service opportunities such as Teach for America or working for your local legislator that may help you better gauge your future interests. In my experience, the most over-achieving law students and junior lawyers are those with experience.
2. If you want to do some sort of corporate law (including business litigation) I would recommend taking a basic accounting course at some point along the way. I did not and had to learn a lot piecemeal. You will find it much easier to communicate if you speak the language.

Contact Information

Adam Halper’s law firm biography and contact information can be found at the following link:
<http://www.proskauer.com/professionals/adam-halper/>

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 10, 2013).

Date: Monday, June 10, 2013

Time: Registration begins at 11.30a for the June exam – consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

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Katie Cruit, 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.

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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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