



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

\*Best viewed in HTML\*

**Vol. 6, No. 4**

Friday, October 26, 2012 – Thursday, November 8, 2012

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

Current applicants: hopefully you are wrapping up your applications for submission, if you have not submitted them already...

If you took the October LSAT, your score should return very soon. Should you have any questions regarding whether to retake the test or how your score impacts your selection of law schools which you intend to apply, please schedule an appointment with me. We can discuss and strategize.

*Happy Halloween!*

**2. MORE CHANGES TO THIRD YEAR, LAW SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

Law schools continue to consider revamping their curriculums, specifically the third year. This movement has been driven by employer feedback regarding preparedness of graduates, a challenging job market -- especially for entry level attorneys, a drop in law school applications, an increase in tuition, and a change generally in how entry-level type work can be completed.

New York University School of Law (NYU) is the latest law school to employ such change. Third year at NYU will now include a study abroad option, and a practice-area focused semester in Washington, D.C., among other things. Additional law schools to have recently altered their third year include Stanford Law School and Washington and Lee University School of Law. With top law schools such as these implementing large scale changes, time will tell whether other law schools will follow suit.

Links to two great articles on NYU's third year curriculum changes and this issue generally can be found in *The New York Times*, "DealBook" and *Inside Higher Ed*, via the links below. Although the articles are on the same topic, they have distinct approaches. Both are good and offer an interesting contrast:

**"N.Y.U. Law Plans Overhaul of Students Third Year"**

[http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2012/10/16/n-y-u-law-plans-overhaul-of-students-third-year/?goback=%2Egde\\_3276613\\_member\\_176070031&pagewanted=print](http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2012/10/16/n-y-u-law-plans-overhaul-of-students-third-year/?goback=%2Egde_3276613_member_176070031&pagewanted=print).

**"NYU Announces Changes to Its Law School Curriculum"**

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/10/18/nyu-announces-changes-its-law-school-curriculum>

**3. OPPORTUNITY FOR DECEMBER GRADUATES: FEMA CORPS**

FEMA Corps is a new FEMA-devoted unit of national service members within AmeriCorps NCCC. The Atlantic Region campus of FEMA Corps is recruiting candidates to become members of the first FEMA Corps class. Currently FEMA Corps members are engaged in their term of service at two other campuses nationally. The Atlantic region will be the third campus.

### **FEMA Corps Member Requirements**

- FEMA Corps members must be 18 to 24
- FEMA Corps members will start FEMA Corps in February 2013
- FEMA Corps members live in a full-time residential, team-based setting and travel
- FEMA Corps members work on FEMA related project assignments

### **How to Apply**

- Applications for FEMA Corps close on October 31 at 11:59 p.m.
- Apply to FEMA Corps using this link - <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=44472>

**DEADLINE: October 31, 2012** (Start date in February 2013)

### **For more information about FEMA Corps:**

- Visit [http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_individuals/choose/ameriCorpsnccc\\_femacorps.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/choose/ameriCorpsnccc_femacorps.asp)
- Contact Sam McKenzie, Community Relations Specialist, [SMcKenzie@cns.gov](mailto:SMcKenzie@cns.gov)



### **4. INTERVIEW: AMANDA STEIN '10, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW 2L**

Amanda (Mandy) grew up in southern Maryland and in North Carolina. She graduated from Johns Hopkins in December 2010 with a degree in Public Health Studies. While at Hopkins, Mandy was a member of the Student Admissions Advisory Board (SAAB), an Admissions Representative, the chair of the Ethics Board, and became a member of Pi Beta Phi in her senior year. Mandy is a long-time Orioles fan and loved her time in Baltimore and at Hopkins.

Mandy graduated a semester early and took a full-time internship with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, where she was also an application reader. Mandy gave information sessions to prospective students and their families who were visiting campus, evaluated applications, and traveled to New England for recruiting activities.

Although Mandy had a wonderful experience in Admissions, she had decided to go straight to law school rather than take more time to work. She took the LSAT in June, before her senior year, and worked on applications during the fall semester. She applied to mostly east-coast schools, with a goal of getting to New York City after law school. After completing the application cycle, Washington University seemed like the best fit, despite the fact that Mandy had never spent time in the Midwest.

Mandy spent her 1L summer working in Washington University's General Counsel's Office, and part-time as a research assistant to a corporate and securities law professor. She has had a great experience so far and is excited to work as a 2L Summer Associate in New York next summer.

### **Questions**

#### **1) Describe a typical day as a law student.**

This semester, I am taking a class taught by a judge, so we start at 7:30 am, so that he can get to court afterward. I finish with classes either at noon or 4:30, depending on the day. On my "late" days, I stay at school and try to work in the library during the day. When I finish at noon, I usually go home to study (I've never been much of a library person). I'm only taking four classes this semester, but I'm also working as a research assistant and I'm on law review, so I always have something I need to be doing. Because of my early mornings, I aim to finish all my work in time to go to bed by 11 at the latest. It's a little abnormal, but it works for me – I do my best to work steadily every day, rather than cram later on.

#### **2) To date, what has been your favorite law school class, and why? How have you been choosing classes after your first year of law school?**

I'm taking Bankruptcy now and really enjoy it. It combines a lot of interesting subjects, and I appreciate the semi-formulaic approach (I did, after all, take lots of science courses at Hopkins). It's co-taught by a bankruptcy judge and lender's attorney, so their perspectives are very interesting.

I've been choosing my classes mostly based on what sounds interesting to me. I think I want to practice corporate law, so I'm taking things that let me get a bit of exposure to that – obviously, Corporations being the prime example. I also consider the professors I've had experience with and whether I learn well from their teaching style – personality is certainly another factor. It's great to take a class with a professor you've already had; you'll know what to expect, at least generally speaking.

#### **3) What made you choose Washington University School of Law? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school?**

I chose Wash U because it felt like a good fit overall. St. Louis is similar to Baltimore and I loved the school itself. Money was also a factor – I'm taking out loans to go to law school, so it was important to me to consider scholarships and job placement. I noticed that Wash U is a forward-looking law school. They seem to recognize that their reputation is much stronger in the Midwest than elsewhere in the country, and they're working to change that. The faculty are accomplished and diverse, the Career Services Office is well-run and proactive, and the Dean is forthright about any concerns and what they're doing about it. It also helped that my boyfriend (also a Hopkins grad) was coming to Wash U for med school, but we both promise that wasn't the deciding factor.

I think the biggest upside to law school is that it teaches you a totally unique way of thinking and approaching problems. The biggest downside is the uncertainty of the job market combined with high tuition. The mandatory curve is also pretty brutal – no matter how well you know the material, at the end of the semester, it depends on how well everyone else knows the material, and how you do in comparison.

#### **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 had an internship in a public defender's office that helped me set my sights on law school. I think that certainly helped my application, and it gave me something to write about in my personal statement. I'm not sure that there was one particular experience that strengthened my application, but I think the total picture helped show that I'm fairly well rounded and could contribute to a diverse law school class.

#### **5) What did you pursue during your interim year(s)/before beginning law school, while in law school and during your law school summer(s)? How did you go about researching these opportunities?**

I graduated a semester early and worked in Admissions during that time. I had been involved in Admissions throughout my time as an undergrad, and was fortunate to have a great mentor to give me a unique opportunity to spend my extra semester in a fulfilling way.

As a law student, I work as a research assistant, and this past summer I worked in the General Counsel's office at Wash U. I found both through our online job listings, and I applied to the General Counsel's Office through our 1L On-Campus Interviewing.

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

For as much as I had read and heard, I don't think I really understood what law school would be like. The grading curve makes it inherently competitive, even if the students are delightful otherwise. That pressure, combined with knowing that the job market is a tough one, made for a very stressful 1L year for me. Thankfully, I felt like Hopkins had truly prepared me to take on just about anything – really, after Orgo, how bad could Property Law be? (Or so I thought). I work a lot. Pretty much all day, every day. And I don't think I could have known how much I would have to work in order to achieve the goals I have.

The legal job search is unique. For students who want a job in a mid-size or large law firm, they will typically work as a summer associate at that firm after their 2L year, a job for which they'll apply starting in August *before* the 2L year. Students who take this more traditional route will quickly realize the importance of 1L grades. I was surprised when I learned that what-will-hopefully-be-my-“real”-full-time-job is determined in August after 1L. Of course, this is not the be-all-end-all; many of my classmates are not looking to go to law firms and are pursuing different career paths, and, accordingly, different summer plans.

7) 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 current law student?  
You've heard it before and I'll say it again: make sure you want to go to law school. If you're feeling burned out, take time off. Your 1L year is exhausting, and it can be very important depending on your career goals.

If you have a particular region in mind where you want to practice law, don't rule out law schools that are in that region – it can be tricky to get to certain markets from out-of-state or outside the region. But, wherever you end up, a little networking can go a long way.

**Contact Information:**

If you would like to learn more about Washington University School of Law, the Midwest, if you think you may want to end up in NY after law school, or if you have additional questions for Mandy Stein, you may reach her by using the following contact information: [mandystein25@gmail.com](mailto:mandystein25@gmail.com).

**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: December 1, 2012/Saturday, February 9, 2013/Saturday, June 10, 2013/Monday**

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

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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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