



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 6, No. 9

Friday, March 1, 2013 – Thursday, March 14, 2013

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Individual law schools' and overall, recent law school graduate employment statistics have received a ton of press in the past few years. Entry level attorney job statistics are driving the decrease in law school applications, and individual law schools have been and continue to be sued over their post-graduate employment statistics. Below are two recent articles that discuss these two items:

In the "Law Schools" section of the *ABA Journal*:

"ABA looking for ways to better monitor employment stats for law graduates"

http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/aba_to_mull_audit_procedures_for_employment_data_renew_law_graduates/

A February 11, 2013 Press Release from NALP:

"Law Firm Recruiting Mostly Flat After Tumbling During Recession"

http://www.nalp.org/march13_perspectives_pr?goback=%2Egde_3276613_member_213818965

2. FSU LAW 2013 SUMMER FOR UNDERGRADUATES PROGRAM

The 2013 Summer for Undergraduates Program will take place **May 20 through June 13, 2013**. During the four-week program, students are engaged in activities covering three primary areas:

- **Classroom Experience** — Daily classes are taught by law school professors and writing instructors. Lectures simulate first-year law classes and familiarize students with the functions of the American legal system. Writing workshops help students to develop their writing and communication skills.

- **Law School Admissions Process** — Students are given the opportunity to talk to the admissions staff and committee regarding the important aspects of the law school application process. This includes practical workshops on completing the application, writing personal statements, LSAT preparation, writing resumes and cover letters, financing law school, and individualized career planning.
- **Careers in the Law** — While the program is academic in nature, there are a number of exciting and enjoyable activities that take place outside of the classroom, such as: visits to the Florida Supreme Court and local law firms, moot court oral arguments, and visits from prominent attorneys in a variety of practice areas.

Eligibility

College students enrolled at two- and four-year institutions, in all majors and from all backgrounds, are invited to apply following their freshman year. We particularly welcome students from groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession. Because one purpose of the program is to help students direct their remaining time in college to best prepare for law school, only rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible to participate. Students who will have earned their bachelor's degree prior to the start of the program will not be eligible for admission.

Program Costs

There is no tuition or room and board charge for this program. Florida State Law provides all meals, residence-hall accommodations, course materials, and a stipend to all participants. Students are responsible only for their travel expenses to and from Tallahassee.

How to Apply

Applications for the 2013 program must be submitted (or postmarked, if mailed) by Friday, March 29, 2013. The application process is very competitive; there are approximately 60 program participants each year. Each application is carefully reviewed in its entirety by the program's admissions committee prior to selection. In order to apply, students must provide the following:

- a completed [application](#) for admission
- a current resume
- a personal statement
- one letter of recommendation
- a current transcript

Applicants can submit all required documents online using the [electronic application](#). Alternatively, a hard copy of the application can be downloaded and sent to:

**Florida State University College of Law
Office of Student Affairs
425 West Jefferson Street, Suite A310
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601
Fax: 850.644.4358
Email: saffairs@law.fsu.edu**

For additional information visit: http://www.law.fsu.edu/summer_undergraduates/index.html

3. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: RESPONSIVE LAW

The mission of Consumers for a Responsive Legal System (Responsive Law) is to make the legal system more affordable, accessible and accountable to the people it is meant to serve.

What they do:

- Educate consumers about the law, their legal rights and legal procedure
- Work for better access to online information and self-help resources
- Champion innovative lawyers, firms, courts and schools
- Promote competition with -- and alternatives to -- traditional legal services
- Work to hold lawyers and judges more accountable to consumers

Interested in interning for Responsive Law?

Responsive Law hosts undergraduate and law student interns during the summer and the school year. Students interested in interning over the summer or during the school year should send a resume to: interns@responsivelaw.org

For more information on Responsive Law, visit: <http://responsivelaw.org/index.php>

4. INTERVIEW: CHARLES L. MERVIS, GENERAL BUSINESS PRACTICE ATTORNEY

Charles L. Mervis is of counsel to Levun, Goodman & Cohen, LLP, and has been practicing law since 1969. Mr. Mervis's focus is on business practice, concentrating in the representation of closely held businesses and wealthy individuals; estate planning and administration; commercial and residential real estate; and corporate and partnership law.

Upon graduation from law school, Mr. Mervis clerked for an Illinois Appellate Court Judge for 2 years. Following his clerkship, he was first an associate and then a partner in the now defunct downtown Chicago law firm of Arvey, Hodes, Costello and Burman for 22 years. Since 1991, Mr. Mervis has been of counsel to the suburban Chicago law firm of Levun, Goodman and Cohen, LLP where he has affiliated his practice with the firm's practice. Although he occasionally receives work from the firm, in essence he is a sole practitioner with the resources of a 12 attorney, general business practice firm.

Mr. Mervis obtained his J.D., *cum laude*, from Loyola University School of Law, Chicago, where he was Associate Editor of the *Loyola Law Journal*. He obtained his B.A. in Liberal Arts from Amherst College.

Mr. Mervis is a member of the Illinois Bar.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of a General Business Practice Attorney.

Since my areas of expertise are so diverse, there is no typical day. I could be working on a real estate transaction, drafting or reviewing a will, trust or any type of business contract, advising on a law suit

involving any of my areas or meeting with a client in any area or any combination of the above. My most memorable moment is easy. When I changed law firms in 1999, I never expected to hear from a client of another partner in my old firm, but one day I was sitting at my desk when the former client called me with a ten minute question because he could not reach either his NYC or Chicago real estate attorney; that ten minute question lasted over ten years, and I continue to handle real estate matters for that client until this day. This was before cell phones, so I am always thankful that I was at my desk when that call came in.

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

After clerking for the Judge, I started my legal practice in the estate administration field. This was a lucky break because administering an estate exposed me to many areas, including estate planning, taxation, real estate, corporate and other business matters. For example, if an estate owned real estate that was leased or sold during the administration of the estate, I handled it and ultimately was asked to help on other real estate matters because I had acquired some knowledge of the area. I really enjoy the variety of work that I handle and dealing with so many different people. Personally, I would get bored if I did nothing but draft the same documents over and over again.

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?

I don't really know of any downside to my areas of law. No matter what you do, there will be some clients or people on the other side of a matter that you don't particularly enjoy working with, but life is never perfect. I wait a difficult matter out and go on to the next matter. In law school, I was never exposed to the actual practice of law, except litigation, and, especially, appellate litigation, so I had no idea of what the practice of law was really like.

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

My only advice to pre-law students during college and during law school, is to try to get a summer job, even at little or no pay, with a law firm, corporate law department, government agency or legal aid organization to get some experience in the legal field to distinguish you from others in your position.

Contact Information:

If you would like to learn more about being a general business practice attorney, Levun, Goodman & Cohen, LLP, or if you have additional questions for Charles L. Mervis, you may access his firm's website at www.lgclaw.com or contact him directly at: CLMervis@lgclaw.com

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



Peace Corps Information Session

Location: Gilman Hall, Room 55

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2013

Time: 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Description: Learn about the Peace Corps and Peace Corps volunteer opportunities! A

Peace Corp representative will be on campus to discuss Peace Corps programs and answer questions.

The Insiders Scoop: Recent Law School Graduates/Young Associates

Location: TBD

Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Description: JHU alumni will discuss what it was like to be a law student at their respective schools, summer experiences while in law school and what it is like to be an associate at a large firm, in a federal government agency, and counsel for an insurance company. They will also discuss the current, legal job market.

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 11:30am for the June exam – consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

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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

David Verrier, Ph.D., Director, Pre-Health Advisor

Ellen Snyderman, M.S., Assistant Director, Pre-Health Advisor

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.

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.

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