



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

\*Best viewed in HTML\*

### Vol. 7, No. 1

Friday, September 13, 2013 – Thursday, September 26, 2013

- ~~~~~
1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.
  2. Legal Education & the Legal Industry in the Media
  3. Opportunity: Logistics Intern, International Rescue Committee (IRC) of Baltimore, MD
  4. Interview: Veronica Jordan-Davis '12, Yale Law School 2L
  5. Upcoming Pre-Law Student Meeting & Program Announcements
- ~~~~~

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

Welcome to the freshmen and welcome back to returning students! I hope everyone had a great summer and start to the 2013-2014 academic year!

A few items of note: there will be a Personal Statement Workshop this upcoming Tuesday, September 17 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Gilman 132. Whether you are applying this cycle or a future one, try to attend! In October, there will be several law school admission related sessions. See below, in section 5, for more details on all of these programs.

#### 2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

“Obama Says Law School Should Be Two, Not Three, Years”

<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2013/08/23/obama-says-law-school-should-be-two-years-not-three/>

“Law School Applications Down 18%”

[http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof\\_blog/2013/08/law-school-applications.html?goback=%2Egde\\_3276613\\_member\\_267248207#%21](http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2013/08/law-school-applications.html?goback=%2Egde_3276613_member_267248207#%21)

“Are lawyers from top law schools a lot happier about their career choices? Statistically the answer is no”

[http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/are\\_lawyers\\_from\\_elite\\_schools\\_a\\_lot\\_happier\\_about\\_their\\_career\\_choice\\_stat/](http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/are_lawyers_from_elite_schools_a_lot_happier_about_their_career_choice_stat/)

#### 3. OPPORTUNITY: LOGISTICS INTERN, INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) OF BALTIMORE, MD

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. At work in over 40 countries and 22 U.S. cities to restore safety, dignity and hope, the IRC leads the way from harm to home. Domestically, the IRC's 22 offices across the U.S. ensure new arrivals have food, shelter, and clothing, and work with refugees to help them gain self-sufficiency.

**SCOPE OF WORK:** An intern is needed to assist the Logistics Coordinator at the IRC Baltimore Regional Office. The intern will prepare for the arrival of new refugees and report to the Logistics Coordinator in the Case Management Department.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:**

- Preparing for refugees' arrival in the U.S.
- Preparing apartments for arrival (including shopping for household necessities, aiding in arranging furniture).
- Mediating between landlords and refugees/asylees.
- Conduct occasional visits to refugees' homes.
- Arrange store/donor delivery.
- Research on in-kind donations.
- Assist in the organization and long term projects for the advancement of the Case Management Department.
- Other related duties as assigned.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Gain intimate knowledge of refugee arrival process
2. Utilize communication and organizational skills in working with different departments/reaching out to clients, external partners, and donors
3. Gain experience working in a diverse and multicultural environment

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Energetic, empathetic, organized and ready to do a variety of jobs.
- Creative and willing to assist with long-term projects.
- Willing to adhere to IRC volunteer and workplace policies.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively in English.

**TIME COMMITMENT:**

- Summer interns are required to work at least 30 hours per week, Monday through Friday, for the entire summer. **Interns who can intern full-time (40 hours a week) are strongly preferred.**
- Fall and Spring interns are required to work at least 15 hours per week, Monday through Friday, for a minimum of 12 weeks in the Fall and Spring

**How to apply:**

Please send your resume, cover letter, and contact info for 2 references directly to [kafiya.ismail@rescue.org](mailto:kafiya.ismail@rescue.org) with the following information listed in the cover letter:

- Internship(s) for which you wish to be considered (please provide a ranking of desired internships if you wish to be considered for multiple opportunities)
- Projected start/end date (noting that we have a 3-month minimum for our internships)
- Days and number of hours of availability during the work week (for example: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9am-5pm)
- Whether or not you would have access to a car in which you would be willing to drive with the refugees and asylees we serve to access social services

To review the complete listing online, visit: <http://www.idealists.org/view/internship/D7JczJjWKmfP/>

**4. INTERVIEW: VERONICA JORDAN-DAVIS '12, YALE LAW SCHOOL 2L**

Veronica Jordan-Davis is currently a 2L at Yale Law School in New Haven, CT. She is the Managing Editor & Webmaster of the *Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law & Ethics*, as well as an Editor of the *Yale Law & Policy Review*. She has also worked to secure asylum for refugees through the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project at Yale.

Veronica graduated from Johns Hopkins in 2012, double-majoring in Public Health Studies & Near Eastern Studies. She was a Woodrow Wilson Research Fellow, completing her research on the topic of ancient Egyptian relationships during the Amarna Period. She was also a member of Omicron Delta Kappa. At Hopkins, Veronica founded Identity, a social justice organization, and served as its President

for her four-year tenure. She was also on the Executive Board of the Refugee Action Project, the Editor-in-Chief of *Zeniada*, and served as a peer health educator for JHU's Center for Health Education & Wellness. Additionally, she was involved with *Thoroughfare* and Amnesty International while at Hopkins.

During her sophomore summer at Johns Hopkins, Veronica interned at the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust, a specialty hospital in London. The summer after graduating from Hopkins, she interned at the World Health Organization and an NGO in Seoul, called Global Together.

## **Questions**

### **1) Describe your typical day as a law student at Yale Law School.**

Each semester, students at Yale typically take between 4-5 classes. Last semester, I started class around 10:30 and then stayed at the law school every day for a lunch lecture. There are normally at least four lectures every day, with topics ranging from environmental law to jury bias to foreign policy. Afterwards, I would either talk to my client from the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project and work on her case, or start on my reading for the next day, or work on my journal responsibilities. I would then have an afternoon class, and when that was complete, I would go to the gym to get my daily exercise. At night, I would see friends for dinner or drinks and complete the rest of my work for the next day.

### **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?**

During your first semester at Yale, all students must take Contracts, Constitutional Law, Civil Procedure and Torts. Starting during your second semester, you can take whatever classes you'd like.

Considerations for choosing classes can include: whether or not there's a writing requirement (at Yale, you must complete two legal theses prior to graduation), the professor, the subject matter, and what you think will help you with your 1L internship or future career. During my second semester, I took Aggregate Litigation, Comparative Law, Criminal Law & Administration, Legal & Medical Professions and a course at Yale's Business School called Managing Global Catastrophes.

My favorite course so far has been my Contracts class, as this was my small group class. (Each 1L is assigned to a "small group" of 16 students with whom they take all of their courses during the first semester. One class will contain only students from their small group, and the rest of their courses will have not only students from their small group, but also, other students in the 1L class).

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

Choosing a law school was somewhat difficult for me. I started the process in a logical manner—applying to schools that were "safeties," "targets" and "reaches," similar to advice given to high school students applying to college. I did not have a school that I knew I would attend, if accepted. Once I received acceptances to go to schools, I had to decide what factors were most important to me—location, strength of professors, types of classes offered, scholarship offers, and fit. Ultimately, I was between two schools but chose Yale because of the fit—I could best see myself at Yale.

The best things about law school include the class content and the opportunities to engage with your classmates. At Yale, you are always learning something new, either in class or by talking or arguing with your peers. In law school, people come from such varied backgrounds and have worked in so many fields, that it really enriches discussions and the overall school environment.

Honestly, there aren't a lot of cons at Yale. I think at other law schools, the competition between students would be difficult to manage, but because we don't have grades and everyone is highly supportive of one another, that obstacle is absent from my law school experience. I'm very happy I made the decision to go to law school, and to Yale, specifically.

**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 think that studying the social determinants of health in my public health courses, as well as exploring many social injustices through my experience leading Identity, led me to go to law school. I wanted to be able to ameliorate social injustices through the legal system. Therefore, I would recommend joining organizations you feel passionately about. Regarding classes, I don't think your undergraduate major matters at all for getting into law school. However, having taken statistics has helped me in the job market.

**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 did not take off a year or two before going to Yale. However, the summer before I matriculated at YLS, I went to Seoul to work at the World Health Organization, and conducted a pilot test of their legal analysis tool for several east Asian nations. While in Seoul, I also worked for an NGO my mentor had founded called Global Together.

At Hopkins, I always applied for grants that would fund my research and internships. I would recommend any Hopkins student to take advantage of these opportunities. For my internships in Seoul, I received an NIH grant that paid for my stay and travel fees.

This past summer after my 1L year, I worked at a hospital in Berlin, where I assisted their Legal Department as well as their International Health Department. For their counsel, I made recommendations on how the hospital could mitigate influences on their research and physicians as a result of pharmaceutical funding and gift-giving. For the International Health Department, I created a computerized model analyzing the interconnectivity of the social determinants of health for policymakers to use in deciding where to allocate resources for possible public health interventions. To receive this placement, I cold-emailed a professor at the hospital, so don't be afraid to ask for what you want.

This coming year, I will be working at the United States Attorney's Office in New Haven.

**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?**

I think that law school, itself, is much better than I had heard it would be. However, it is important to note that the legal job market has not fully rebounded from pre-recession days.

When you are accepted to law schools and go to their admitted student days, most make a hard sell about how their students have found jobs. I would recommend that you ask the career services department or the admissions department for actual data on where their students went the past 3 years. All schools will have this data. By looking at it carefully, you can tell not only whether all students were employed 2 or 3 years out, but also, how many received jobs immediately after graduation.

In addition, you raise your likelihood of getting a job greatly by the school you attend. Even within the T14 schools, job placement rates vary highly. Moreover, if you know what region you would like to practice in, consider schools located within that region more favorably, as you will be able to build a professional network there as a law student.

**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?**

I would take advantage of the pre-professional office. Ms. Droskoski is very helpful in thinking about options and creating a strong application.

I am happy that I attended law school immediately after college, but I want to share one cautionary note about that decision. I am not sure about how other schools operate, but at Yale, you have to apply to classes, extra-curriculars and clinics that are in high demand or capped. Work experience is a plus for availing yourself of these opportunities, so a lack of it can sometimes count against you. This is something to consider when you're deciding when to apply to law school and whether or not to defer. I would encourage those of you who do attend law school without time off to be assertive and to advocate for the opportunities you want.

### **Contact Information**

If you have any questions regarding Yale Law School, applying to law school, or the legal job market, Veronica Jordan-Davis is happy to connect with Hopkins students. Her email is [veronica.jordan-davis@yale.edu](mailto:veronica.jordan-davis@yale.edu).

## **5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Personal Statement Workshop**

**Location:** Gilman 132

**Date:** Tuesday, September 17, 2013

**Time:** 5:30pm to 6:30pm

**Description:** Robert Condlin, Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law, will offer a general overview of the "sleeper" in the law school application process. Obtain suggestions and tips on how to draft your best personal statement.

### **George Washington Law Individual Interviews (current applicants only)**

**Location:** TBD

**Date:** Friday, October 4, 2013

**Time:** 10:30am to 3pm

**Description:** Sophia Sim, Associate Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, George Washington Law, will conduct individual interviews with prospective current applicants. Advanced sign-up required; additional details to follow.

### **Columbia Law School Info Session**

**Location:** TBD

**Date:** Monday, October 7, 2013

**Time:** 12pm to 1pm

**Description:** An admissions representative from Columbia Law School will present an information session and answer questions.

### **New York University Law School Info Session**

**Location:** TBD

**Date:** Tuesday, October 8, 2013

**Time:** 12pm to 1 pm

**Description:** An admissions representative from NYU Law will present an information session and answer questions.

### **Upcoming LSAT Administration**

**Location:** Check with LSAC for testing locations.

**Date:** Saturday, October 5, 2013

**Time:** Registration begins at 8:30 am for the October 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](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.

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](mailto:adrosco1@jhu.edu)

[web.jhu.edu/prepro](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro)