



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

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Friday, March 7, 2014

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

If you do not yet have plans for this summer, now is a great time to be giving this more thought. The summer is an ideal time to gain some experience in a legal setting which may help you determine whether a career in law really is a good fit for you. Unsure of the first step? Start with your immediate family and friend network. Determine whether anyone is an attorney or knows any attorneys; then, reach out to whom you have identified for informational interviews and/or with internship inquiries. Additionally, good sites to search for summer positions in different fields and by geography include: www.idealists.com (for non-profit, NGO options, etc.) and www.usajobs.gov. (for positions with the U.S. government). You can also do a Google search for attorneys in your immediate region. As always, feel free to schedule an appointment with me, when we can discuss your specific interests and how to explore them best.

Have a wonderful Spring Break!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

"Law firm fall recruitment better, but still largely flat" -- a new report by National Association for Law Placement (NALP)

<http://www.nationaljurist.com/content/law-firm-fall-recruitment-better-still-largely-flat>

"Want to Work in BigLaw? Apply to These Law Schools" -- National Law Journal lists the top 50 law schools sending their graduates to BigLaw

<http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2014/02/24/want-to-work-in-biglaw-apply-to-these-law-schools/>

3. OPPORTUNITY: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT INTERN(S), CONSUMERS FOR A RESPONSIVE LEGAL SYSTEM (DC)

Consumers for a Responsive Legal System ("Responsive Law") is seeking both part-time and full-time undergraduate student interns for Summer 2014. This position is unpaid, but Responsive Law will work with students to receive course credits.

Interns will work on policy research in support of our advocacy efforts before state legislatures, bar associations, and supreme courts.

Responsive Law is a national, nonprofit advocacy organization that works to improve accessibility, accountability, and affordability in the civil justice system. They advocate for more competition in the provision of legal services, better self-help options for the legal system's customers, and improved legal literacy for those customers.

How to Apply

Applicants should send a resume and letter of interest to: interns@responsivelaw.org.

For more information about the organization and its advocacy, visit www.responsivelaw.org

To see the complete listing, visit: <http://www.idealists.org/view/internship/34FbZzWkJDcH4/>

4. INTERVIEW: CHRISTINE LICALZI '10, LEGAL ASSISTANT, SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP (NYC)

Christine LiCalzi is currently a Legal Assistant at Sidley Austin, LLP in NYC, where she has been since 2013. As a Legal Assistant, she conducts document searches and factual research for complex commercial and securities litigation matters, as well as prepares exhibits and supporting documents for cases. Christine also assists in the completion of asylum, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), etc. applications to help clients become documented citizens of the U.S.

Prior to joining Sidley Austin, Christine was involved with various public interest groups. For 1.5 years, she was an Administrative and Policy Associate with (RED), a Division of the ONE Campaign. While with (RED), she served a variety of supportive functions, including directing the internship program. Immediately upon graduating from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Christine interned at Human Rights Watch, GBCHealth, United Nations Week Media, UNICEF, and Jodhpur Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS Sansthan (JNP+).

Christine graduated from JHU in 2010 with a B.A. in International Studies and, with honors, in Italian Studies; she minored in Entrepreneurship and Management. Fall of her junior year, she studied abroad in Bologna, Italy. While at JHU, Christine held several positions, including: as a Research Assistant with Johns Hopkins Civility Project, an Intern with Parter International, an intern with MTV Networks for 2 summers, and an intern with Redlight Children Campaign and Priority Films.

Christine has been a long term volunteer with organizations such as Catholic Big Sisters and Big Brothers, National Student Partnerships, and the Refugee Youth Project. While at JHU, she was actively involved in leadership roles with the Spring Fair, the Panhellenic Council, and Phi Mu Sorority.

Christine LiCalzi is proficient in Italian and currently lives in Manhattan.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of a Legal Assistant at Sidley Austin LLP (NYC).

I work as a Legal Assistant at Sidley Austin LLP in the Complex Commercial and Securities Litigation practice group. Each legal assistant has a number of cases for which they are responsible. A typical day depends on which cases are the most active, and at which stage they are in the litigation process. For example, if a case has witness depositions the next day, I would spend most of my time working with the attorneys to prepare a comprehensive set of exhibits to be used at the deposition. Other days include preparing to file briefs and other legal pleadings to the court, which can involve cite checking and compiling and drafting exhibits. Since joining Sidley about one year ago, I've been able to prepare for and attend an international arbitration as well as an evidence suppression hearing for a federal criminal narcotics conspiracy case. My day typically starts around 9:30 a.m., and due to the large amount of work for which we are responsible, tends to extend into overtime hours in the evening.

2) What made you choose this particular position and has it met your expectations?

About a year ago, I decided that I wanted to pursue a career in law. I had been working at non-profit organizations for two and a half years, and wanted to make the switch to the private sector to really determine if law was an appropriate fit for me. Around that time, I attended a Hopkins networking event in NYC where I met a fellow Hopkins alum who was a Legal Assistant at Sidley Austin, and she ended up recommending me for an opening at the firm. I knew the position would be challenging, demanding, and a crash course in the litigation process, and it has definitely lived up to my expectations on these fronts. I am now very familiar with the language and processes involved in complex commercial and securities litigation, which I know will be valuable when I attend law school next year. Also, I've been pleasantly surprised by how much I've been able to incorporate public interest work into my day-to-day responsibilities. I am currently involved in five pro bono cases, which range from a child support matter, to political asylum cases, to a federal criminal narcotics conspiracy case.

3) Did you pursue anything else during your interim years before beginning law school? How did you go about researching each of these opportunities?

After graduating from Hopkins, I volunteered at an HIV/AIDS organization in Jodhpur, India through the Foundation for Sustainable Development. I knew someone who had done the program previously, and it was exactly the type of experience I wanted to gain post-graduation. This experience spurred my interest in international public health and policy, and after returning to the U.S. I sought various internship positions to gain experience in these fields. I held temp positions at the United Nations, which I found through a temp agency, as well as two consecutive five-month internships at GBCHealth and Human Rights Watch, which I found on Idealist.org. In July 2011, I was introduced to the CEO of (RED), the organization founded by Bono to engage the private sector in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa. I joined (RED) as an intern and it soon turned into a full-time position as an Administrative and Policy Associate, which I held for one and a half years.

4) What do you think you have gained from the experiences and from taking time off before law school? Given the choice, would you do it again?

Taking time off before law school was definitely the right decision for me. Pursuing law was one of my many interests at the time of graduation in May 2010, and I wanted to be 100% certain of this decision before making the time and monetary commitment that goes with law school. Through taking time off, I was able to pursue and hone my interests, make professional contacts, and really develop my skills and experience in the work force. I know this will come in handy during my first legal internship or in my

first position as an attorney. I also believe my work experience has made me a more attractive law school candidate and has shaped my career goals for after law school. I would absolutely do it again.

5) What types of undergraduate opportunities did you pursue that led to your decision to apply to law school? Were there any other experiences that you felt were particularly helpful in strengthening your application to law school?

As part of a “concentration” for my International Studies major, I enrolled in a few courses in international development, public health, and public policy, which began to shape my interest in these fields. Although I didn’t really know I wanted to go to law school while I was at Hopkins, I think many of my undergraduate experiences did help strengthen my application. For example, law schools look for candidates with leadership positions and who are civically minded, and I think my extracurricular activities, such as Spring Fair and Panhellenic Council, and various volunteer positions in the Baltimore community have aided my application. Letters of recommendation from professors are also very important, and it was helpful that I was able to establish strong relationships with professors in my majors.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a Legal Assistant, Sidley Austin LLP in NYC or would otherwise like to contact Christine LiCalzi, you may reach her at the following email address: christine.licalzi@gmail.com.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

DC-Metro Area Law School Admissions Panel

Location: TBD

Date: Friday, April 25, 2014

Time: 12-1pm

Description: Admissions Officers from Georgetown University Law Center, George Washington University Law School, University of Maryland, and American University, Washington College of Law will discuss their respective schools and the law school admissions process.

Upcoming LSAT Administration

Location: Check with LSAC for testing locations.

Date: Monday, June 9, 2014 / September 27, 2014 / December 6, 2014

Time: Registration begins at 12:30 pm for the June exam -- consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

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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.

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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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