



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

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Friday, April 4, 2014

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Hope everyone had a great Spring Break!

LSAC's most up to date Action Report (2012-2013) is now available on our website:

http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/your_jhu/2012.2013.law.school.action.Report.pdf

Note that if there are 5 or less applicants from JHU for any category (Applicants / Admitted / Matriculated/ Other Decision), an asterisk will be posted in lieu of the specific data. With applications down, there are many asterisks in this report. Refer to each law school's medians for more specific -- and likely helpful -- data.

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

ABA Jobs Corps Targets Access to Justice 'Paradox' -- *"the American Bar Association will pay between \$5,000 and \$15,000 to organizations that come up with good ways to match unemployed law school graduates to unmet legal needs for the poor."*

<http://www.nationallawjournal.com/id=1202648691221/ABA-Jobs-Corps-Targets-Access-to-Justice-%27Paradox%27#ixzz2xvigLNaY>

For First Time Since 2010, Number of LSAT Test Takers is on the Rise -- *the "number of law school admission tests administered in February (2014) was up 1.1% from the previous year..." however, "the annual total of test takers is still down 6.2% from the 2012-2013 cycle. And February's figure is 30% below the pre-crisis peak reached in 2009..."*

<http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2014/03/17/for-first-time-since-2010-number-of-lsat-test-takers-is-on-the-rise/>

The Upshot of the Latest U.S. News Law School Rankings -- *some trends noted in the latest USNWR rankings*

<http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2014/03/11/the-upshot-of-the-latest-u-s-news-law-school-rankings/>

3. OPPORTUNITY: FULL-TIME CORPORATE PARALEGAL, PAUL WEISS (NYC)

Paul Weiss is looking to hire a full-time corporate paralegal to start in June. This could be a great opportunity for current seniors interested in a gap year(s) opportunity in the legal sector.

“Corporate paralegals assist lawyers in all stages of corporate transactions and with the preparation of documents necessary to comply with federal, state and local regulations in the conduct of business activities.” More information can be found here:

<http://www.paulweiss.com/careers/paralegals/corporate-paralegal-job-description.aspx>

Katherine Wu '13 currently holds the above position and has offered her contact information for those interested in learning more from a fellow Blue Jay: kwu@paulweiss.com.

4. INTERVIEW: BRITTANY COLTON '12, WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW 1L

Brittany Colton is a 1L at Wake Forest University School of Law (Wake Forest Law) in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She is a Research Fellow for the Jury Sunshine Project at Wake Forest Law and involved in Phi Alpha Delta, Reclaiming Futures, and Women in Law.

Brittany graduated from Johns Hopkins University in May 2012 with a B.A. in Political Science and a member of Alpha Mu Alpha Honor Society and Pi Delta Phi Honor Society. While at JHU, Brittany was the Vice President of Membership of the JHU American Marketing Association, and a Course Assistant for Advertising and Integrated Marketing Communication, Principles of Marketing, and International Marketing. Additionally she was a member of the JHU Tutorial Project. During the summer of her sophomore year, Brittany interned at iAdventure.com, and then interned there again as well as at a small law firm in New York City the summer before her senior year. After graduating, Brittany took a year off to study for the LSAT and work.

Questions

1) Describe your typical day as a law student at Wake Forest Law.

My classes usually begin at 9am and end around 4pm. In the morning, I finish last-minute reading for that day. In between classes I start preparing for the next day. After classes are done, I usually workout and then do homework.

2) To date, what has been your favorite law school class, and why? How have you been choosing classes beyond the set curriculum?

My favorite law school class is Legal Writing and Research because it is the class most akin to practicing law. The first semester focused on legal objective writing, which is analyzing a problem and then stating what issues could possibly arise for the client. In contrast, this semester is focused on persuasive writing and oral advocacy. Persuasive requires researching a problem and then stating why a certain outcome should occur. I just completed a brief about whether a university violated Title IX when it refused to field a women's golf team, despite the fact that it already fields a men's golf team. I will have to argue

my brief in the upcoming weeks. I enjoy this class because I find it to be the most relevant to what I will be doing when I am practicing law. For my doctrinal classes, such as Torts and Civil Procedure, the entire semester is spent learning the material, and the material that is learned throughout the semester is not applied until the final exam at the end of the semester.

3) What made you choose Wake Forest Law? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school?

I chose Wake Forest Law because it is an excellent law school that provides small classes, accessible professors, and practical experience to apply the law through clinics and externships. My graduating year consists of four “sections.” Each section is comprised of approximately 45 students. All my doctrinal classes are with my section. For my Legal Writing class, there are around 20 students. One of the main reasons I choose Wake Forest Law is because of the clinics and externships. Especially with the job market today, it is important to learn the law in the classroom and then apply it in a real world experience prior to graduating.

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 have been interested in attending law school since high school, but I also became interested in Marketing and Public Relations through courses I took while attending Johns Hopkins. I had a public relations/marketing internship for two summers, which really exposed me to what I would do if I worked in that field after graduation. With that much exposure and hands-on-experience, I realized I enjoyed public relations/marketing, but it was not something I would like to pursue as a career. Although these opportunities were not directly related to law school, they provided clarity when deciding if I should attend law school. Law school is a huge investment, both in time and money, so it is imperative to make sure it is something you want to commit to prior to attending. I do not think that my extensive experience with marketing/PR hurt my application, but it has come up in interviews when employers have asked me why I decided to attend law school if the majority of my resume is marketing/PR focused.

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 decided to take a gap year because I knew I would not have time during my senior year to be a Course Assistant for three classes, do well in my other classes, as well as study for the LSAT. I wanted to take advantage of the opportunities that were afforded me while a student at Johns Hopkins. While I was studying for the LSAT, I volunteered weekly at a women’s homeless shelter. Only after I was done with the LSAT and law school application process did I start working full time.

This summer I will be interning at the District Attorney’s Office in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The District Attorney’s Office did not have a job posting online, but I contacted them directly because I knew I was interested in criminal law and wanted to be back in Pennsylvania for the summer.

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?

Through the job search process, I have learned that ties to a geographic area are extremely important. If you do not want to work in the state where you attend law school, it is necessary to be able to explain to the employer during an interview why you want to live in that area. It is a huge investment for a law firm to hire someone straight out of law school only to have that person leave the firm in a couple of years to go work for someone else in a different state.

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?

When applying to law school, it is necessary to think about the geographic area you would like to live and practice in after graduation. I am attending law school in North Carolina, but ultimately I would like to live in Pennsylvania. Since Wake Forest is well-known, I have not had problems when applying for jobs outside the state of North Carolina. However, some employers require in-person interviews, so I had to fly back home to Pennsylvania to interview. Additionally, by applying to places outside the state where I attend, I have had to do a lot of my job search process on my own. Wake Forest does have a website where employers can post jobs, but the majority of them are for law firms and District Attorney's Offices in North Carolina. Thus, all the jobs I applied to were places that I found on my own.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a law student at Wake Forest or would otherwise like to contact Brittany Colton, you may reach her at the following email address: coltbp13@wfu.edu.

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, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, University of Baltimore School of Law, 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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**STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING**

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

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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  
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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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