



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 7, No. 3

Friday, October 11, 2013 – Thursday, October 24, 2013

- ~~~~~
- 1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.**
 - 2. Legal Education & the Legal Industry in the Media**
 - 3. Opportunity: WilmerHale Networking Event/Site Visit**
 - 4. Interview: Tom Artaki '11, NYU School of Law 3L**
 - 5. Upcoming Pre-Law Student Meeting & Program Announcements**
- ~~~~~

1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

To follow up on the opportunity presented in the last issue, the Baltimore Education Fellows Scholarship (designed for students in A&S who will graduate in 2014; full-tuition support and a \$20,000 living stipend for candidates who have a desire to teach and gain experience in the most challenged and low-performing schools) has an upcoming open house. Those interested in the program should try to attend:

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 19, 2013

10 a.m. – Noon

Education Building, 2800 N. Charles Street

Also, please note that UB Law will be hosting a law fair on October 15, and Yale Law School will be hosting a webinar on October 17. See section 5 below for more details.

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

“Facing Drop in Applications, Law Schools Cut Costs” -- includes changes to JD application volume at New York’s 15 law schools over the past 6 years
http://www.newyorklawjournal.com/PubArticleNY.jsp?id=1202621710322&Facing_Drop_in_Applications_Law_Schools_Cut_Costs&goback=%2Egde_3276613_member_5792995677835378690&slre_turn=20130908160119

“1L Enrollment Data at 20 California Law Schools” -- similar data, but for matriculants to 20 California law schools
http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2013/10/1l-enrollment-.html?goback=%2Egmp_3276613%2Egde_3276613_member_5792601750108131330#%21

“Five Initiatives That Legal Education Needs” -- more on the new normal in law schools
http://www.abajournal.com/legalrebels/article/five_initiatives_that_legal_education_needs

“What new legal services jobs have emerged in the last five years? And what does the future hold?” -- the new normal creates new law-related jobs
http://www.abajournal.com/legalrebels/article/what_new_legal_services_jobs_have_emerged_in_the_last_five_years/

3. OPPORTUNITY: WILMERHALE NETWORKING EVENT/SITE VISIT

Interested in learning more about working at a law firm? WilmerHale invites you to a free morning of networking at their Washington, DC office. During this event, you will have the opportunity to see WilmerHale's workplace culture in action, speak with staff members, and learn about how to be a successful candidate when starting a job search -- as well as potential employment opportunities.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Date: October 24th, 2013
- Event Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. (breakfast included)
- Cost: FREE
- Location: 1875 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, DC 2006
- Preferred RSVP Deadline: October 18, 2013
- Cancellation Deadline: October 15, 2013

AGENDA

9:00am Arrival, Networking Breakfast & Welcome

9:30am Structure of a Law Firm Presentation

10:00am Panel Discussion with Firm Staff

(Department representation from: Attorney & Practice Support, Human Resources, Information Services, Marketing & Pro Bono.)

11:00am Breakout Table Discussion with Panelists

11:45am DC Office Tour

DRESS CODE

WilmerHale is a business casual office. Casual attire such as shorts, denim, sneakers, flip flops, t-shirts, sweatshirts, mini-skirts or other revealing attire is not permitted.

Interested? Kindly [RSVP](#) by Friday, October 18.

QUESTIONS?

All inquiries should be directed to **Alison Kennedy, Staff Recruiter** at alison.kennedy@wilmerhale.com or 202.247.3844.

4. INTERVIEW: TOM ARTAKI '11, NYU SCHOOL OF LAW 3L

Tom Artaki is a third year student at NYU School of Law. Tom graduated from Johns Hopkins in 2011, and following a three month fellowship awarded by Birthright Armenia to work at a humanitarian aid non-profit in Armenia, Tom entered law school later that year. Following his 1L year, Tom interned with the General Counsel's office of the International Rescue Committee. During his 2L summer, Tom held a summer associate position at Willkie Farr and Gallagher LLP in New York.

At NYU Law, Tom is an Executive Editor of NYU's Journal of International Law and Politics. Tom has worked in the school's Global Justice Clinic addressing the issue of gold mining in Haiti, and is currently doing research on the intersection between human rights and natural resource extraction as a Student Scholar with NYU's Center for Human Rights and Global Justice. Tom previously sat on the Board of NYU's Unemployment Action Center, and participated in the inter-law school Immigration Court Observation Project.

At Johns Hopkins, Tom majored in Economics and International Studies. During his junior year, Tom studied abroad at The Institute for Political Studies (Sciences Po) in Paris. At Hopkins, Tom was a volunteer at Project Health Baltimore (now Health Leads), a Board member at Alpha Kappa Psi Pre-Professional Fraternity, a staff member of JHU's Model United Nations, and a Vice-President of the Pre-Law Society. While an undergraduate, Tom held internships with various political campaigns and congressional offices, and worked as a paralegal in a law firm in Philadelphia.

Questions

1) Describe your typical day as a law student at NYU School of Law.

Unlike the more regimented 1L year of law school (i.e. class, library, sleep, class, library, sleep), as an upperclassman my typical day is much less structured and depends on the day. I typically have two to four hours of class each day – this is typically preceded by an equal number of study hours for each class, done either in the library or in Washington Square Park if it's a sunny day (and if I can find an open bench away from the crazy pigeon men). However, during days in which my class time is light, I'll spend most of the day either in my law clinic office, or else doing research for an article I am writing under one of my professors. If it's a day I have "office hours" for my journal, then I'm spending roughly three hours in my journal office editing (or "bluebooking," for those who have law school friends) scholarly articles that are nearly ready to be published.

By sundown, while all the 1Ls are in the library furiously reading cases and preparing outlines, I like to meet a few friends for dinner or drinks in the Village and talk about how weird it is that we're already 3Ls!

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?

To my great surprise, my favorite class was Federal Income Tax. Whereas most classes are lush with abstract doctrines of law and policy, our Income Tax professor led the class through problem sets (where the answer shall be found somewhere in the 5,000 page Internal Revenue Code!), and constantly fused together law and economics, balancing considerations of societal fairness and optimal economic outcomes. The class was like a throwback to my undergraduate microeconomics classes, except this time around our class discussions made sizable room for the Supreme Court.

After my first year, I've been balancing my course work pretty evenly between commercial law and human rights law classes. Learning about human rights law has always been important to me, but I am also looking forward to working for a corporate law firm over the next few years. So, I've tried to keep a 1:1 ratio wherever I have free schedule space – if I add a class on Human Rights and Terrorism, then I also add a class on Mergers and Acquisitions. This keeps things interesting during the semester, and also helps to remind me that my legal career is wide open.

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

I chose NYU both for geographical reasons and because of the school itself. I wanted to be in New York in order to be close to my family, and then narrowed it down to NYU because it was the best in International Law and seemed to have a heavy focus on the public interest. Geographically, the choice worked out – being in New York is not only culturally exciting, but the (non-governmental) legal industry is more or less based in the city. Although I was disappointed to see that the public interest community at NYU is pretty minimal despite the school's reputation, I found the International Law community, of both professors and students, to be large and electric.

The primary pro of law school is that it's a highly energized environment. If you take the initiative to join extracurricular organizations (such as clubs, clinic, or journals), go to speaker events, and really dive into courses, law school can be an intellectually exciting place to be. Moreover, once you finish with 1L year, law school tends to keep the fun-loving social vibe that we all grew accustomed to in college. So, it's definitely a way to extend your college days by a few years.

The primary con is surely going through 1L year. It's an intimidating experience, and is made all the more stressful when you find out how important first year grades are to job prospects. When you figure, then, that the entire class grade depends exclusively on a single exam at the end of the semester, it's easy to lose yourself in the library in the name of perfecting exam-taking skills and strategies.

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?

People come to law school from all sorts of majors and experiences, so there isn't one experience that is more meaningful than another. However, the experience that I attribute my decision to go the law school was my volunteer work for Project Health (now Health Leads). Spending years helping poor individuals interact with their landlords, potential employers, and the social services bureaucracy made it clear that understanding and arming one's self with the law gives one all the power to navigate difficult situations and defend themselves against the unruly. I ended up writing about this realization in my personal statement, which apparently caught the attention of numerous admissions offices.

I also interned at a small law firm in Philadelphia during my sophomore year summer, where my supervising attorney gave me substantive research assignments for cases he was litigating. He essentially gave me my first crack at legal research and writing, which gave me the sense for what practicing law actually meant. I loved it, and from then on knew I wanted to be a lawyer.

In all reality, the experience that probably strengthened my law school application the most was studying for the LSAT. I spent the large part of my summer and fall of senior year on C Level taking practice exams (I took every exam administered over the past decade) so that I was sufficiently prepared come LSAT day to take the exam once, and do it well. Getting a high LSAT score did wonders to mask my less-than-ideal grades and limited work experience.

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 went straight to law school from Hopkins, so my only in-between experience was a fellowship I was awarded to live and work at a humanitarian aid NGO in Armenia for three months. This experience was fantastic in its own right, but it was also valuable for allowing me to do something interesting before diving back into the library for the long and stressful 1L year. My only regret was not taking more time off to unwind academically and explore the world.

Prior to my 1L summer, I was undecided about taking the law firm route or continuing to explore the human rights field, so I thought to work in-house for a human rights organization. I searched through the NYU Public Interest Law Fair, where law students from all over New York come to find public interest jobs, and ended up securing an internship with the International Rescue Committee in the General Counsel's office. There, while I was surrounded by some fantastic aid projects and human rights campaigns, my day-to-day work was largely corporate work (reviewing contracts, formulating Board Resolutions, etc.). Through this internship, I found that I actually enjoyed corporate work and could see myself in BigLaw.

Consequently, during my 2L summer I worked for a large law firm in New York as a summer associate. To get one of these summer associate positions, you have to go through a marathon On Campus Interview week (which is essentially Law Firm speed dating), followed by rounds of exhausting call back interviews, all which take place at the end of the 1L summer (yes, almost a year before actually beginning at the firm). The summer program itself was great! These summer programs are in large part about schmoozing and partying with your summer class and the attorneys, but I did get my hands on some pretty serious and exciting work while rotating through the firm's corporate and litigation departments. I ultimately accepted a full time job offer with the firm's litigation department by the end of 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?

My idea of law school as an undergraduate was to an extent informed by the movie, Legally Blond. I found the movie to be surprisingly accurate. First year law classes, especially due to the Socratic teaching method, are intimidating, but at the same time highly engaging intellectually. Moreover, our student body, although very friendly outside of the classroom, is competitive – at one point, I, just like the evil Vivian Kensington, turned a friend away from my study group due to various group members' unwillingness to share our outlines and exam prep materials.

However, 1L year is a truly unique year, and so my Legally Blond inspired picture of law school ended the moment I submitted my last 1L final exam. As an upperclassman, you begin to choose classes and join clubs/clinics for sake of their intrigue, you begin to know the professors more intimately, you create your own social circles, and grades have much less import. Life at law school becomes less stressful and more of an occasion for personal enrichment. Of course, professors continue to cold call, but we finally learn to answer their questions without hyperventilating.

As far as the job search, I applied to law school well into the recession, and so I was aware that the job market for corporate law firms had tightened. This was fine, since I was applying with the intention of working in the non-profit sector. Coming from a higher ranked school, I found the opposite to be true. It was not difficult to get hired into a BigLaw firm for the majority my peers, however the sexier non-profit and government jobs were of slim pickings. Slowly but surely, myself and many of my friends who had entered law school with a mind to saving the world "sold out" to the law firm world in part because it involved a much easier and streamlined job search process.

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?

Assuming the state of the legal market today, if you think you will be interested in working for a large corporate law firm, it is a major risk to enter any law school not highly ranked by U.S. News. The major law firms in New York are recruiting from the same T14 schools, and are considering candidates outside of this range only if they are at the very top of their class. The widespread grumblings that law school is no longer a worthwhile financial investment is not true at top law schools, but it's likely true otherwise.

A second piece of advice is to take time off after undergrad. You need time to refresh your mind and explore the world before diving back into the library for what is certain to be a stressful 1L year. Not only will it give you invaluable substantive experiences to draw on as a law student and eventually lawyer, it will ensure that you're not still burnt out from college. 1L year is intense – you need to be mentally ready.

Contact Information

If you have any questions for and/or would like to contact Tom Artaki, you can reach him via email at: tartaki@gmail.com

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baltimore Regional Law Fair

Location: John and Frances Angelos Law Center, The University of Baltimore School of Law

Date: Tuesday, October 15

Time: 4pm to 7pm

Description: Meet with representatives from law schools across the country -- from Hawaii to Massachusetts -- at the Baltimore Regional Law Fair! No R.S.V.P. required. Walk-ins are welcome! For more information visit:

<http://www.ubalt.edu/calendar/EventDetail.cfm?eventId=11837&daterequest=10/15/2013&caltitle=School%20of%20Law&path=0&calview=Calendar>

Yale Law School Webinar

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2013

Time: 12pm to 1pm

Description: The Yale Law School Admissions Office will be hosting a video webinar with prospective law school applicants from Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Virginia. This event is open to current students, alumni, and staff of Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, and UVA. Sue Paik, Director of Recruitment, will be on hand to answer questions about legal education, the application process, and life at Yale Law School. The format of the webinar is question and answer, so be sure to come prepared with questions. Advance registration is required. To register for this event, please visit:

law-yale.adobeconnect.com/georgetownjhuuva13/event/event_info.html.

Harvard Law School Webinar

Date: Monday, October 28, 2013

Time: 2pm to 3pm

Description: Harvard Law School will be hosting a webinar for those interested in their JD program. Details regarding how to register are TBD and will follow.

Upcoming LSAT Administration

Location: Check with LSAC for testing locations.

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2013 / Saturday, February 8, 2014 / Monday, June 9, 2014

Time: Registration begins at 8:30 am for the December 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-Med Advisor

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

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

Katie Cruit, M.S., Assistant Director, Pre-Med, Pre-Nursing, & Pre-Health Advisor

The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:

Carolyn Mae Krause, Administrative Coordinator, 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 410-516-4140

For students whose last name begins with M-Z, contact Mrs. Sanders.

Angie Decker, Office Manager, 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
web.jhu.edu/prepro