



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 7, No. 5

Friday, November 8, 2013 – Thursday, November 21, 2013

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

For those of you interested in returning to campus for Intersession coursework, consider taking the class I instruct, *The Practice of Law*. The course description is as follows:

This course is designed to familiarize students with the world of the law and legal practice options, through the eyes of Johns Hopkins University alumni and/or local, Baltimore-area community members who are attorneys. The course will focus on the following legal specialties: Corporate Law, Entertainment Law, Public Interest Law, Employment and Labor Law, and Criminal Law. There will also be a young associate panel, to provide insight into the current legal job market for recent law school graduates, as well as a law school applicant and current law student discussion.

Hope to see you in class, in January!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

"The Millennial Lawyer And BigLaw Hunger Games" -- *Forbes* piece discussing Millennials' fit within the Cravath System and the increasingly popular apprenticeship approach to entry level law firm hiring
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidparnell/2013/10/30/the-millennial-lawyer-and-biglaw-hunger-games/>

"LSAT Numbers Decline for Fourth Straight Year" -- October 2013 LSAT was the 13th Straight administration with fewer test takers than the previous year
http://www.law.com/jsp/nj/PubArticleNJ.jsp?id=1202625977136&LSAT_Numbers_Decline_for_Fourth_Straight_Year

"Drop in law school applications higher among students from more elite schools"
<http://www.nationaljurist.com/content/drop-law-school-applications-higher-among-students-more-elite-schools>

3. OPPORTUNITY: THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW'S 2014 SUMMER FOR UNDERGRADUATES PROGRAM

The Florida State University College of Law is currently accepting applications for its 2014 Summer for Undergraduates Program, which provides students an inside look at law school and the legal profession. The program will take place May 19-June 12. All undergraduate students, except those graduating in spring 2014, are eligible to apply. We will notify applicants of our decision around mid-April.

Approximately 60 students will be chosen from the applicant pool to participate in the intensive four-week program. Daily lecture classes taught by a Florida State Law professor familiarizes students with the functions of the American legal system and the process by which conflicts are resolved. Legal Writing classes help students develop their verbal and written communication skills. In addition to the academic focus of the program, participants also will be exposed to LSAT overview workshops and a simulated exam, law school admissions sessions, visits to local state and federal courts and law offices, and guest lectures by attorneys in a variety of practice areas.

The College of Law provides free room and board, course materials, and a travel stipend to all participants. There is no program tuition, but participants are responsible for their travel expenses to and from Tallahassee.

How to Apply

Complete the online application and submit a resume, one letter of recommendation, a personal statement, and a current transcript. Applications must be submitted by Friday, March 28, 2014. For more information or to view the program video, visit www.law.fsu.edu/slp.

4. INTERVIEW: MICHAEL C. HERRERA '12, DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW 1L



Michael C. Herrera was born and raised in Miami, Florida. In May 2012, he received his BA, *cum laude*, in Political Science from The Johns Hopkins University (JHU). While at JHU, Michael was a two sport varsity athlete, in football and track & field, and President and Founder of Students Advocating Darfur Awareness. He was also a member of Alpha Delta Phi, Literary Fraternity, as well as the ARMY ROTC program.

During the summer of 2008 and 2009, Michael was an intern with a criminal and immigration attorney in Miami, where he conducted research and drafted motions and correspondence to federal and local judges. Fall 2011, Michael participated in JHU's Aitchison Fellowship in Washington, D.C. where he was a research intern at the Conflict Records Research Center of the Institute for National Strategic Studies. In the JHU ROTC program, he served as Battalion XO and was a Distinguished Military Graduate. Upon graduation from JHU, he attended the Armor Basic Officer Leadership Course in Fort Benning, Georgia where he graduated on the Commandant's List. Subsequently, he attended and graduated from the Army Reconnaissance Course where he earned the special designation of 19C (Scout Platoon Leader).

Shortly after taking command of a platoon in the Maryland National Guard, Michael was accepted to Duke University School of Law (Duke Law), amongst other schools. He is currently a JD/LLMLE (Law & Entrepreneurship) student, and started law school the summer of 2013 in order to graduate in three years with both degrees. At Duke Law, Michael is the 1L representative for both the Black Law Student Association, as well as the Law and Entrepreneurship Society.

Questions

1) Describe your typical day as 1L at Duke University School of Law (Duke Law).

On a typical day I have my two doctrinal classes (required first year courses) as well as my advanced class for my second degree. The fourth class is a graded legal writing class which sets Duke apart from many other schools. I usually find myself reading and note taking between classes and often spend about 12 hours during the weekdays at school including class times.

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

Business Associations. As my only advanced class, it has allowed me the opportunity to explore my interests in more detail. Although it is not an easy class, the material is extremely interesting and I very much enjoy the professor who worked as a partner at a large corporate law firm.

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

I choose Duke Law for its T14 ranking, its quality of life, and its location. The quality of professors at Duke is unbelievable. My Contracts professor is the authority on Sports Law, my Torts professor is one of only 5 mass tort special masters in the world, and my Criminal Law professor had a PHD in Neuroscience and a dual appointment at the medical school. However, the atmosphere at Duke is not as competitive as you would imagine a T14 school to be. The community here is very alive and very helpful, also everyone hangs out all the time because it's such a small school (only about 200 in my class). Not only that, but the cost of living in NC is almost a third of that in NYC or DC, which helps. Cons would have to be that it isn't in a major city like NYC or DC. However, you do not really notice it because the school brings in speakers such as Justice Thomas and Justice Alito to come speak with us regularly. Also, during On Campus Interviewing, over 200 national firms come to Duke for the purpose of hiring the best and the brightest, making up for the lack of major city location.

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?

Aitchison fellowship for both questions. The Aitchison fellowship helped me realize that I did not want to go into academia or consulting. I found myself attracted to the talks on legal topics while in DC and realized law may be where I wanted to go. It was also beneficial because it was the topic I discussed in my personal statement and has led to questions from Dean's and Professors about my experience. The same can be said for my military experience. I'm a firm believer that the leadership and organizational skills that the military offers is exactly what law schools look for, and I have stood out amongst my peers because of this 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?

During my year off I spent the majority of my time in Military training refining my skills for the Army National Guard. While here at Duke I have become involved with certain organizations which bring in speakers weekly to discuss current events or legal topics with the law school community. I got into these groups by attending some of their events and networking with current members. These are societies that I wanted to learn about when I applied to Duke and were a factor in my decision.

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?

Better. The doom picture painted for students is that finding a job will be hard if not impossible. However, at a T14 school like Duke that worry is almost nonexistent. When they say "wherever you want to work you will get a job there" they mean it. Over 50% of the law school seeks and finds employment in Big Law and the rest do public interest or clerkships. OCI still brings in over 200 employers to interview you and the career center does a phenomenal job of setting you up on the track to achieve what you want. I am more confident now about employment than I was before law school.

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?

Do not take undergraduate lightly, take time off and get some life experience, and start developing good habits now. If your undergraduate GPA and activities are excellent it makes the law school search that much easier and getting into the T14 that much simpler. The average age of my starting class is 24. This statistic shows the enormous value Duke puts on life experience. Taking even a year off to work or volunteer or doing something interesting is exactly what they want. Not only that but the students who came straight from undergraduate are often immature and stress out pretty quickly because it's no longer undergraduate where you can get away with not studying at times. That being said start developing good habits now. Treat school as if it were a job and don't bring it home with you. Do all school work at the library or coffee shop or classroom and do nothing at home. Make your home your "you" place. If you can do that you will start going to the library 9-5 or 9-7 and you will see how much free time you actually will have on the weekends and at night. This will be crucial for working in the real world as well as law school and will make that transition as easy as possible.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about Duke Law, or if you have any questions for Michael C. Herrera, you may contact him by email at Michael.herrera@duke.edu.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thieves of Book Row -- Free Book Reading

Co-Sponsored by JHU Sheridan Libraries

Location: The Ivy Bookshop (6080 Falls Road, Baltimore)

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2013

Time: 7pm

Description: Author Travis McDade -- attorney, law librarian and the leading expert on crimes against rare books -- will discuss his account in *Thieves of Book Row* of a notorious book-theft ring and the special investigator who brought it down.

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 October exam -- consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING

Ana L. Droskoski, 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