



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 7, No. 6

Friday, November 22, 2013 – Thursday, December 5, 2013

~~~~~

- 1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.**
- 2. Legal Education & the Legal Industry in the Media**
- 3. Opportunity: Refugee & Immigration Advocacy Internship (Unpaid), World Relief**
- 4. Interview: Thaddeus Wataluk '01, Deputy Ethics Director, Baltimore City Ethics Board**
- 5. Upcoming Pre-Law Student Meeting & Program Announcements**

~~~~~

1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

For those of you that intend to work for a year or two upon graduating from JHU, and possibly complete law school part-time, consider attending Maryland Law’s open house this weekend. Even if you are not interested in attending Maryland Law, this is a great opportunity to learn about law school generally, and part-time programs specifically:

Maryland Carey Law Open House for Part-time Evening Students

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2013

Time: 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Description: Maryland Carey Law invites prospective students who are interested in learning about Maryland’s Evening Division (part-time program) to meet with administrators to discuss the law school application and financial aid process. This is a chance to hear current students’ perspectives on the benefits of part-time enrollment and to learn what it takes to be successful in this program.

The Open House agenda is as follows:

Activity	Time
Table Talk/Tours	10:00 am – 10:30 am
Law Student Panel Discussion	10:30 am – 11:30 am
Financial Aid Information	11:30 am – 12:00 pm
Reception/Tours	12:00 am – 12:30 pm

Interested in attending? **Register here:** <http://umparttimeprogram.eventbrite.com>.

Questions? Contact Michele Hayes at mhayes@law.umaryland.edu.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, EVERYBODY!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

12 Years After Law School: Women Reflect On Their Careers

<http://www.linkedin.com/today/post/article/20131113210600-17970806--2-years-after-law-school-women-reflect-on-their-careers> -- be sure to read the original article, as well as the follow up article with accompanying video on *The New York Times* website, discussing 21 women who had joined the New York law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton in 2001

Hiring Themselves

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/11/13/study-finds-law-schools-perpetuate-elite-legal-education-values-faculty-hiring#.UoNkNxlrsd0.email> -- for those considering legal academia, this is a relevant article

Tougher Job Hunting For Graduates Is 'The New Normal'

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/ff379e98-3815-11e3-8668-00144feab7de.html#axzz2kd981pLk> -- discusses how some law schools have considered and reacted to the changing legal job market

3. OPPORTUNITY: REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION ADVOCACY INTERNSHIP (UNPAID), [WORLD RELIEF](#)

World Relief is an international, faith based organization that seeks to empower local Churches to serve those identified worldwide as the most vulnerable people, to transform them economically, socially, and spiritually. The Immigrant Legal Services Intern will support the Refugee and Immigration Advocacy Department by facilitating meetings and events, communicating with affiliate offices, Congressional offices, and other entities. They will assist with the development of resources by studying policy issues, creating talking points, sample letters, and policy summaries on immigration issues. They will build the capacity to prepare for immigration reform by mobilizing churches to engage in advocacy, coordinating educational events, and other tasks as needed. The intern will attend meetings in Washington DC with Congressional and Administrative staff.

Training Program

The Refugee and Immigration Advocacy Intern will receive training in the following areas:

- Basic immigration law
- Congressional procedures and advocacy skills
- Developments in immigration legislation and policy

Specific Job Duties:

- Communicate with affiliate offices, Congressional offices, and other entities
- Help organize departmental resources
- Research and report on issues pertaining to immigration law and policy
- Build capacity for World Relief and the church on comprehensive immigration reform
- Help expand a national network of volunteers
- Equip churches and church leaders to engage in advocacy
- Help organize press conference materials, and make contacts within the media
- Coordinate educational events in churches across the United States
- Develop advocacy materials including briefings, action alerts, talking points, etc.

Experience Required:

- A demonstrated interest in immigrants and refugees
- Strong organizational and multi-tasking skills, with high attention to detail
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Strong research and writing skills
- Highly motivated, self-starter
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Exposure and sensitivity to other cultures
- Flexible, team player
- Knowledge of the evangelical church in the United States
- A committed Christian faith
- A commitment to learn and serve under the supervision of World Relief
- Foreign language skills a plus
- Law students or law graduates preferred, undergraduate students welcome

How to apply (Start date: January 20, 2014 **/ End date:** April 14, 2014)

To apply for this position, please visit www.worldrelief.org/volunteer. For more information please contact Volunteer@wr.org.

Application deadline

December 1, 2013

To review the complete listing, visit:

<http://www.idealists.org/view/internship/35Bk9mNGzp6np/>

4. INTERVIEW: THADDEUS WATALUK '01, DEPUTY ETHICS DIRECTOR, BALTIMORE CITY ETHICS BOARD

Thaddeus Watulak is the Deputy Director of the Baltimore City Ethics Board. He serves in two roles with Baltimore City government's Department of Legislative Reference. Mr. Watulak has worked as a bill drafter with the City for four years and has held the additional position of Deputy Ethics Director for Baltimore's Ethics Board since 2010. In his bill drafting role, Mr. Watulak prepares City Council resolutions on a wide variety of topics and drafts proposed laws on behalf of the City Councilmembers and the Administration. As Deputy Ethics Director, he provides counsel and support to the City's Ethics Board and is responsible for much of the day-to-day administration of Baltimore's Ethics Code, as well as for investigating complaints of Ethics violations.

Prior to joining the Baltimore City government, Mr. Watulak spent two years in private practice as an employment law and general practice attorney in Westport, CT.

Mr. Watulak received his J.D. *cum laude* from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL) in 2004. While at TJSL, he placed first in the California Bar Association Environmental Law Negotiations Competition in March 2004, was a full Merit Scholar from 2001 to 2004, was on the honor roll from Spring 2002 to Spring 2004, participated in Moscow State University's Summer Study Abroad program in 2003, and earned CALI Awards in Admiralty Law, Employment Law, Remedies, and Antitrust Law & Trade Regulation. Mr. Watulak graduated from Johns Hopkins University in August 2000 (JHU Class of 2001) with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in history. While at JHU, he was a Staff Writer, Opinions Editor and News Editor for *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter*.

Thaddeus Watulak is licensed to practice in Connecticut.

1) Describe a day in the life of a Deputy Ethics Director, Baltimore City Ethics Board.

The two roles that I serve in present such a variety of duties and activities that it is hard to identify any particular day as “typical”. Trying to balance competing priorities is a big part of each day, as it is for most legal professionals. On the bill drafting side, I’ll likely touch base with several Councilmembers or City departments about bills they’ve requested, and then spend time researching and writing the bills. The variety of topics that the City Council acts on is so broad that I’m constantly required to briefly become an expert in areas as diverse as tobacco flavoring methods and bicycle-friendly street grate design so that I can translate an official’s ideas into a workable law or an well-argued resolution.

On the Ethics side, I will typically respond to several questions each day from City officials or employees about whether or not the Ethics Code would bar them from taking some contemplated action – such as accepting a gift, voting on a particular matter, or accepting an external financial opportunity. Most of these questions I can answer for them on my own based on the text of the Code or past Ethics Board decisions, but the more novel ones will be turned into requests for formal or informal Ethics Board opinions. If an Ethics Board meeting is coming up I might spend some time preparing a draft formal Opinion for them to consider on one of these questions. If we’re involved in an active investigation of a possible Ethics Code violation I’ll likely spend much of the day interviewing those involved with the matter and reviewing other relevant evidence so that I can make a recommendation to the Board about whether or not a violation seems to have occurred, and, if so, what the best response may be.

2) What initially attracted you to this field? What are some of the rewards of this area of law and the legal profession?

I had always been interested in public service, and two years in private practice confirmed that it was a better fit for me. For me, it just feels better knowing at the end of the day that what I’ve been working on, whether I agreed with it or not, is at least intended to serve the greater good – rather than just determining which of two sets of unpleasant people gets to “win” an unnecessary dispute or walk away with the bigger pile of money. In my particular job, it is also satisfying to have an opportunity to improve the rules that we live under by having some input into how a law or a binding Opinion is written. I also enjoy being able to work on a wide variety of issues; and working in the public sector lets me strike a better balance between my work and home life than I was able to achieve in private practice.

3) What are some of the downsides of this area of law? How would you compare the reality of your profession to the picture you had of it while in school?

One downside to public sector work is that the pay is much lower than what many people assume lawyers earn, this can especially be a problem if you’ve had to take on a great deal of debt to acquire your JD.

Another drawback is one that I found in private practice as well, and that I think applies to the vast majority of lawyers – you can offer advice, but you rarely actually get to make the critical decisions. Your role is to advance your clients’ interests, and more often than you might think you’re not going to agree with those interests. If you can’t forcefully and convincingly advocate for a position that you personally disagree with, or work conscientiously to make sure that something you advised

against goes off as smoothly as possible, you're likely to have a hard time in the legal profession. As a student you'll probably always envision yourself being on the "right" side, but in reality that's simply not always going to be the case for most attorneys, no matter who their clients are.

4) Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in pursuing this body of law and the legal profession?

I guess the two pieces of advice I'd offer to prospective attorneys, whether you're planning to work in or out of government, would be to have a plan for your career and to take every opportunity to hone your writing skills.

It may have been true in the past that a JD alone opened up a tremendous number of doors for you and set you on a path to success, but that's no longer the case. You need to have a clear plan for what you want to do with your law degree from the moment that you begin applying to law schools, if not sooner, if you're going to get real value out of the huge investment of time and money that you're about to make. It's important to have specific goals in mind and to select your law school, courses, and internships with those goals in mind. If you can't articulate how a JD is going to advance your career, it's probably not going to.

It's also important to do everything that you can to improve your writing skills. It really doesn't matter if you have the right answer, or how much knowledge you have, if you can't effectively communicate your ideas to others. And, as an attorney, most of that communication is going to be written – whether as an e-mail to a colleague, a brief filed with a court, or a carefully crafted new provision for a law or contract. Being an effective writer, and especially being an effective legal writer, isn't innate. It's a learned skill that can only be improved by regular use and a willingness to accept criticism. Writing intensive courses as an undergrad, or volunteering to write for a student publication, are some of the best places for you to hone the writing skills that you'll need to survive law school and one day be an effective attorney.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or would like to contact Thaddeus Watulak, you may use the following email address: Thaddeus.watulak@baltimorecity.gov

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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 Cruik, 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](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)