



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

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Friday, February 21, 2014

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1. **Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.**
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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

For those of you interested in studying abroad, a reminder that the JHU Study Abroad Fair has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 25, from 10am to 2pm in the Glass Pavilion. The fair is a great opportunity to learn more about overseas programs. For those interested in incorporating some pre-law student elements into their experiences abroad, be sure to review the following link on the Pre-Professional Programs & Advising website: http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/study_abroad.html. If you have any questions or would like to discuss pre-law student related study abroad opportunities, please schedule an appointment with me.

Studying abroad is a wonderful, enriching opportunity on many levels. Try to take advantage!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

"Five Easy Ways to Quickly Build Your Professional Network" -- tips for law students that are transferrable to undergraduates

<http://www.nationaljurist.com/content/five-easy-ways-quickly-build-your-professional-network>

"60 law schools earn top honors for practical training" -- a list of law schools delivering on their promise to become more experiential

<http://www.nationaljurist.com/content/60-law-schools-earn-top-honors-practical-training>

"Best schools for public interest law" -- 25 law schools evidencing a commitment to public interest law

<http://www.nationaljurist.com/content/best-schools-public-interest-law>

“Offer Rates for Summer Associates Go Up, But Law Firms Remain Cautious” -- 92% of 2013 summer associates were extended full-time offers, but summer class sizes remain small
<http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2014/02/21/summer-offer-rates-are-up-but-law-firms-remain-cautious-on-hiring/>

3. OPPORTUNITY: STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (UNPAID, SUMMER) INTERN, GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE)

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) supports the Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities to legislate, appropriate, and oversee the Federal government for the benefit of the American people. The GAO, commonly referred to as the investigative arm of Congress, or the congressional watchdog, is independent and nonpartisan. The GAO assists Congress in making informed decisions by providing information on policy and program issues, as well as by providing recommendations to make government more effective and responsive.

GAO seeks non-paid student volunteers to encourage interest in public service careers and provide valuable work experience. As a non-paid volunteer, a student will gain first-hand experience with GAO's work environment, learn about the federal government and perform a variety of tasks related to supporting GAO activities.

DUTIES

Specific duties and responsibilities associated with this position will vary based on the team or office assignments. The following list is intended to provide applicants with a general overview of the duties and responsibilities:

- Plan and complete work assignments on time
- Collect and analyze relevant information
- Prepare quality draft documents
- Communicate relevant and accurate information, clearly and concisely during formal or informal meetings
- Collaborate with others to accomplish goals
- Contribute to team efforts
- Use various enterprise tools and technology to prepare and share documents
- Provide essential support such as arranging meetings, taking notes, responding to routine inquiries

DUTY LOCATIONS INCLUDE (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

Los Angeles, CA / San Francisco, CA / Denver, CO / Washington, DC / Chicago, IL / Boston, MA

OFFICES & TEAMS OF POTENTIAL INTEREST INCLUDE (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

Congressional Relations / Office of the General Counsel / Office of Opportunity and Inclusiveness / Financial Management and Business Operations / Office of the Chief Financial Officer-Chief Administrative Officer / Health Care Team / Homeland Security and Justice Team / Information Technology Team / International Affairs and Trade Team / Natural Resources and Environment Team / Financial Markets and Community Investment Team / Financial Management and Assurance (FMA) team

REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS

- U.S. Citizenship

- Enrollment at least half-time in an accredited academic institution
- In good academic standing
- Completion of a satisfactory background investigation
- Selective Service registration if you are a male born after December 31, 1959
- Ability to work well in a team environment
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing to a variety of audiences
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to organize a variety of assignments simultaneously to meet deadlines
- Working knowledge of computer applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook

DEADLINE: Open period closes **May 6, 2014**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY, VISIT:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/343159400>

4. INTERVIEW: CHRISTOPHER MIRASOLA '12, TECHNICAL & LEGAL ASSOCIATE, INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES TO JUSTICE (BEIJING, PRC)

Christopher Mirasola is the Technical & Legal Associate at International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) in Beijing, China. In this role, he has designed for publication 22 e-learning modules on advanced legal skills for criminal defense attorneys, collaborates on training for criminal defense attorneys, and updates security procedures and maintains the information technology system across all IBJ China Offices. Prior to joining IBJ, Christopher was an Oral English Teacher at World Teach Hunan from August 2012 to June 2013. He taught 960 students in 16 classes how to use oral English, through speeches, debates and conversations, and acted as Country Expert to prospective Oral English Teacher applicants, fielding inquiries regarding living and teaching in China.

Christopher graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in 2012, where he received a B.A. in International Studies with a concentration in Chinese and the Tucker Prize for Best Thesis in International Studies. While at JHU, he studied abroad twice -- at The School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London and at the Beijing Institute of Education. Fall of his junior year, Christopher was a Democratic People's Republic of Korea Unit Intern in the Office of Korean Affairs of the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. The summer following his freshmen year, he was a New York U.S. Export Assistance Center Trade Assistant at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Also while at JHU, Christopher earned a Woodrow Wilson Undergraduate Research Fellowship to research Dispute Resolution in Rural China and was a Millennium Commission on Space Security Team Member for the JHU Global Security Politics Workshop during the Fall of 2009. Christopher's other involvements while at JHU include: co-directing the JHU Counseling Center's Sexual Response Unit, vice-chairing the JHU Center for Social Concern's Refugee Action Project, and serving as a Desk and Peer Assistant at the JHU Career Center.

Christopher Mirasola is proficient in Mandarin and functionally fluent in Italian.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of a Technical and Legal Associate at International Bridges to Justice (IBJ).

IBJ is an international NGO devoted to ending investigative torture. In China the organization focuses on supporting and training criminal defense lawyers. My position focuses on developing IBJ China's online learning courses for young criminal defense attorneys. As such, my position involves a lot of translation, module development (mostly PowerPoint presentations), website development, and support for in-person trainings prepared by IBJ partners. But really, since we have a relatively small staff in China, we share most tasks and help where necessary.

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

After my first year in China I wanted to pursue a more law-oriented track but was still unsure if law school was for me. So I searched for organizations operating in China that focus on law and came across IBJ. I was drawn to this organization and the position because it allowed me to directly interact with the law in a way that could meaningfully impact aspects of China's legal community. I had never worked for an NGO before and so had very few expectations. I can say, however, that it has been an immensely rewarding experience thus far.

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

Before joining IBJ I volunteered as an oral English teacher through WorldTeach China for one year in a mid-sized provincial capital. At the beginning of my senior year I knew that I wanted to move to China for two years to improve my Chinese and get more firsthand experience after focusing on East Asian studies as an undergraduate. I mostly searched online for job programs and volunteer opportunities in China and applied to a number of programs (i.e. Princeton in Asia, WorldTeach, China government scholarships) for positions or study programs.

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?

I would, without a doubt, take time off before law school if I were to do this all again. In fact, before coming to China I did not believe that a law degree would be useful given that my interests focus mostly on international relations. Work experience put what I learned at Hopkins into a more practical context and gave me a professional perspective I could not have developed based solely on short-term undergraduate internships or study abroad programs.

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 I mentioned before, as an undergraduate I never expected that I would apply to law school. So the choices I made were mostly based on my interest in international relations, particularly China and East Asia. With that said, research I conducted on grievance resolution in rural China through a grant from JHU's Woodrow Wilson Fellowship first got me interested in law. Without that experience I doubt that I would have ever begun to appreciate the extent to which law can meaningfully improve the lives of those who, seemingly, have very little power. I think the fact that my internship and research experiences as an undergraduate focused on a singular topic (East Asian studies and relations in the region) helped my law school application since it gave the law schools a better understanding of how I would practically use a JD after graduation.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a Technical & Legal Associate, International Bridges to Justice in China or would otherwise like to contact Christopher Mirasola, you may reach him at the following email address: cmiraso1@jhu.edu.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming LSAT Administration

Location: Check with LSAC for testing locations.

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2014 / Monday, June 9, 2014

Time: Registration begins at 8:30 am for the February exam -- consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

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### **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](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.

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