



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

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Vol. 8, No. 1

Friday, September 5, 2014

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Welcome to the Freshmen, and welcome back to returning students! I hope everyone had a great summer, as well as a good start to the 2014/2015 academic year thus far.

For those applying this cycle -- and for those that are applying soon or are just curious! -- there will be a Personal Statement Workshop on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 from 4:00-5:00pm in Gilman 50. Admission Deans from Seton Hall Law School, Richmond School of Law, and University of Denver Sturm College of Law will take a workshop-style look at the personal statement, with 2-4 examples for attendees to review. Take advantage of hearing directly from Admissions Deans how to draft this key piece of your application. For more details, see below, Section 5.

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Online Master of Legal Studies Program at @WashULaw. "**Is There a Gender Gap in the Law?**" *Legal Ease Blog*. Web. 21 Aug. 2014. http://legalease.blogs.com/legal_ease_blog/2014/08/is-there-a-gender-gap-in-the-law.html -- fun infographics from Washington University School of Law that address the current state of women in the law.

Carter, Ruth. "**Unsolicited Advice for Law Grads in Professional No Man's Land**," Carter Law Firm, Web. 14 Aug. 2014. <http://carterlawaz.com/2014/08/unsolicited-advice-for-law-grads-in-professional-no-mans-land/> -- written by a lawyer, a step-by-step on emailing a lawyer for an information interview.

Smith, Jennifer. "**Student Lawyers Get in on the Intellectual Property Boom**" *The Wall Street Journal*. Web. 5 Aug. 2014. <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2014/08/05/student-lawyers-get-in-on-the-ip-boom/> -- technology disputes and revisions to federal patent law keep intellectual property attorneys so busy that demand for services has trickled down to law school students through the USPTO Clinic Program.

Smith, Jennifer. "Law School Applicant Pool Continues to Shrink" *The Wall Street Journal*. Web. 22 July 2014. <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2014/07/22/law-school-applicant-pool-continues-to-shrink/> -- for the fourth year in a row the number of law school applicants is down, this year by more than 37% compared to 2010.

3. OPPORTUNITY: MARYLAND CLIMATE POLICY INTERNSHIP, CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) is currently hiring a **Maryland Climate Policy Intern** to work with them in their Baltimore office this fall. Whether you're new to advocacy or looking to further develop your skills, CCAN's policy internships can offer valuable experience.

For twelve years, CCAN has been working in Maryland, Virginia and DC to fight climate change by standing up to polluters and pushing for clean energy policies. This fall, they are working on several fronts to reduce and prevent climate pollution. In Maryland, they are working to double Maryland's commitment to clean energy, fight dirty coal and incineration, and keep Marylanders safe from the dangers of fracking.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct campaign related research
- Help recruit community leaders and other VIPs to support policy solutions
- Educate lawmakers on policy solutions
- Support field organizers in arranging and running constituent meetings
- Create and distribute campaign materials, including factsheets
- Prepare legislative materials, including testimony
- Write and publish blog posts in support of the campaign
- Have an amazing opportunity to learn advocacy skills from an organization that climate activist Bill McKibben has called the "best regional climate organization in the world."

Qualifications:

- Driving passion to combat climate change and secure clean energy victories
- Eagerness to learn environmental advocacy and organizing skills
- Ability to work independently and within a team to meet goals under deadline
- Comfort with public speaking
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong research and problem-solving skills
- Blogging experience and social-media skills (preferred)
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite
- A sense of humor, and a friendly positive attitude

Location:

This position will be based out of either Baltimore, MD or Takoma Park, MD.

Hours:

20 hours/week for 10 weeks. Minimum 10 hours/week for 10 weeks.

Compensation:

Part-time fall internships are unpaid. CCAN will provide a \$100 travel stipend every month and will work with applicants to secure course credit, if available.

To Apply:

Fill out [this internship application](#) and indicate that you are applying for the *Maryland Climate Policy Internship*. Attach a one-page resume detailing relevant experience. Supplemental writing samples in the form of letters to the editor, blogs or other advocacy documents are encouraged. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

For the complete listing, visit: <http://chesapeakeclimate.org/jobs/md-climate-policy-internship/>

4. INTERVIEW: PAULINE M. PELLETIER JHU '06, LAW CLERK, UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT & PATENT ATTORNEY

Pauline M. Pelletier, JHU class of 2006, is currently a law clerk for the United States of Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Pauline received her J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in 2012. While there, she was an Articles Editor for the Journal of Business and Technology Law and an intellectual property research assistant for Professor Lawrence M. Sung.

Prior to her clerkship, Pauline served as an Associate at Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox, PLLC, an intellectual property firm located in Washington, D.C. While at JHU, Pauline played NCAA Women's Tennis and was a founding editor of Epidemic Proportions. Pauline is pursuing a Master's of Science in Bioinformatics through Johns Hopkins University Advanced Academic Programs (JHUAAP) and will be returning to Sterne as a Patent Litigation Associate following her Federal Clerkship.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of a Law Clerk.

As a law clerk (typically a one year position) I serve for a judge, performing legal research, drafting bench memoranda, and assisting the judge prepare for oral arguments. The court I work for has exclusive nationwide jurisdiction over cases arising under the patent laws as well as those involving international trade, government contracts, certain money claims against the government, federal personnel, veterans' benefits, and public safety officers' benefits. A typical day includes reviewing briefs submitted by parties, examining the record, and analyzing the issues presented for purposes of briefing my judge. I generally spend a large amount of time drafting a bench memo for each case assigned to me. The first full week of every month, the court hears oral arguments. I attend all the arguments for my cases, and as many other arguments as I can. I have had the luck of observing many high-stakes, high profile cases involving important issues in patent law -- so in a sense, there have been many memorable days. It's too hard to describe just one!

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

I was initially attracted to patent law, an area within intellectual property (IP), because it involves technology. Patents reflect the value placed on innovation, as authorized by Article One, section 8, clause 8 of the U.S. Constitution. The field is relatively old, but continues to present new and interesting legal issues. I learn new things about my practice every day. This is not just because the field is complex

and technical, but because it has changed so much in the past decade, for example, due to recent patent reform introduced through the America Invents Act (AIA) as well as several recent decisions handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

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?

As with almost any area of law tied to the economy, clients are under immense pressure to reduce costs and to minimize risk. This poses unique challenges throughout the intellectual property life cycle, from pursuing and maintaining protection to managing enforcement and defense activities. These are “facts of life” you are spared from in law school. And yet these facts are crucial. That said, I see the ability to provide exceptional representation even under economic pressure as an important skill, rather than a downside.

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

I would advise any undergraduate interested in this field to obtain a technical degree, if possible. Patent law is somewhat unique in having its own bar administered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (patent bar). The patent bar requires a certain number of engineering or science credits. Thus, while patent bar registration is not necessary to litigate patent claims in federal court, or to serve clients generally in this field, the credential makes it a great deal easier to get your foot in the door and demonstrate a commitment to patent law.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a Law Clerk for the United States of Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, patent law, or would otherwise like to contact Pauline M. Pelletier, you may reach her at: pauline.pelletier@gmail.com.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Personal Statement Workshop

Location: Gilman 50

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Time: 4:00-5:00pm

Description: Admission Deans from Seton Hall Law School, Richmond School of Law, and University of Denver Sturm College of Law will take a workshop-style look at the personal statement, with 2-4 examples for attendees to read. Obtain suggestions and tips on how to draft your best personal statement, and learn more about this “sleeper” in the admissions process!

Constitution Day 2014: One Nation Under Watch: Surveillance, Privacy and National Security in America

Co-sponsored by MICA & the ACLU-MD

Location: Brown Center's Falvey Hall, MICA, 1301 W. Mount Royal Ave.

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Time: 7–9 p.m.

Description: Daniel Ellsberg, author, former U.S. military analyst and one of the most prominent political whistleblowers in U.S. history, will headline Constitution Day, a free annual symposium co-

sponsored by the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland (ACLU-MD). The panel, moderated by WYPR's *The Signal* producer and MICA faculty member Aaron Henkin, will also include Kade Crockford, director of the Technology for Liberty project at the ACLU of Massachusetts, and interdisciplinary artist Hasan Elahi, whose work has explored the implications and consequences of surveillance for more than a decade.

For more information: http://www.mica.edu/Events_and_Exhibitions/Constitution_Day_2014.html

Upcoming LSAT Administration

Location: On Campus -- Hodson 110. Check with LSAC for definitive and additional testing locations.

Date: September 27, 2014 / December 6, 2014 / February 7, 2015

Time: Registration begins at 8:30 am for the September 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.

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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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