



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 8, No. 10

Friday, March 6, 2015

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

For those of you in the current application cycle (Fall 2015 matriculation), please note that if you are put on the waitlist or on hold at a law school there are steps you can take to increase your chances of gaining acceptance. To strategize about this, please schedule an appointment with me.

A note about appointments:

- 1) Appointments are made through the online scheduling system on the Pre-Prof website: <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/vkb5m10/10>.
- 2) I have set appointment hours and appointment availability that can be seen in the online scheduling system.
- 3) Appointments can be made up to 30 days in advance.
- 4) When you know you are unable to attend a scheduled appointment, please cancel that appointment *as soon as possible*. It is unprofessional to cancel the day of an appointment. I have many students who would like to meet with me, and the open appointment slot would be greatly appreciated.

I hope everyone enjoyed their two snow days!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA"

Caron, Paul. "McGinnis: Will Law School Applicants Return?" *TaxProf Blog*. 28 Feb. 2015. http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2015/02/mcginnis-will-law-school-.html -- The TaxProf Blog picks up a blog post by Northwestern Law Professor

McGinnis who asks and answers this question with a big no, citing advances in technology that have created structural change.

Sloan, Karen. **"An Elite Education's Going to Cost You: Tuition at top law schools surpasses \$55K per year."** *The National Law Journal*. 2 Mar. 2015. <http://www.nationallawjournal.com/id=1202719224840/An-Elite-Educations-Going-to-Cost-You> -- "tuition at US law schools continues to increase even as demand for law degrees declines...and the increases are particularly pronounced at the elite schools that send the most graduates into the nation's largest law firms."

"Entry-level Law Firm Recruiting Ticks Up." *NALP Press Release*. 4 Mar. 2015. http://www.nalp.org/march15_perspectives_pressrel -- analysis of the 2014 summer/fall recruiting data this week finds that "six years after the Great Recession, entry-level law firm recruiting activity increased measurably." There is a link to the full "Perspectives on Fall 2014 Law Student Recruiting" report within this press release.

3. GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY: TRANSACTIONAL DOCUMENT PROCESSOR (Job #S20150213), PERKINS COIE LLP, PORTLAND, OR

PERKINS COIE LLP, an international law firm and the preeminent firm in the Pacific Northwest, is seeking a Transactional Document Processor to join the Business Group in its Portland, Oregon office. Perkins Coie's Portland Business Group regularly handles mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance transactions and corporate governance matters for national and international clients, and is widely regarded as the strongest business law practice in Portland. In 2014, Perkins Coie was named the "Best Large Company to Work For in Oregon" by Oregon Business magazine. The firm has also been listed on FORTUNE magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For" for 12 consecutive years.

Informational: The position will start on July 27, 2015, with the ideal candidate/best fit being someone interested in going to law school in the Fall of 2016. Interview and relocation costs will not be reimbursed. Qualified candidates will be required to take technical tests to determine if the firm's proficiency standards are met.

DUTIES: This entry level position will provide support to transactional attorneys in the creation, quality control, review, and editing of legal documents. Specific duties include using a variety of software applications (Word, Adobe Professional, Excel, PowerPoint) to create, compare, format, convert, and edit legal documents from various sources according to attorneys' specifications. This position will check legal documents to ensure accuracy and consistency while proofreading documents according to the Business Group's proofreading checklist. This position will also conduct internet research to verify information in documents, including using public and/or proprietary firm or client internet sites, maintain online databases of corporate documents for use in business transactions, and compile executed agreements into finalized, bound versions after a transaction closes.

REQUIRED: Requires a bachelor's degree and a minimum of 1 year of experience in a law firm environment, or equivalent. Chosen candidates will be required to have

proficiency with standard MS Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), as well as Adobe Professional. Successful candidates will also be required to have proficiency with document formatting tools including Word Styles and Numbering and the ability to accurately type 75 wpm. Chosen candidates will be required to manipulate and/or produce spreadsheets, charts, graphics, presentations, forms, PDF conversions/signature packets, and transaction closing sets. Strong written and oral communication skills and the ability to express oneself effectively, and excellent grammar, punctuation, and spelling abilities are required. This position also requires attention to detail with excellent proofreading and quality control skills, the ability to work effectively in teams and independently in a fast-paced environment, with limited direction on complex tasks, the ability to effectively prioritize tasks and manage multiple, simultaneous deadlines, and the ability to organize and track legal documents. Ideal candidates will have a strong work ethic and strong problem-solving capabilities.

PREFERRED: Ideal candidates are preferred to have familiarity with document management systems and a strong understanding of (and interest in) the legal industry (including legal terminology, the development of legal documents, and legal processes). Preferred candidates will also have familiarity with U.S. Security and Exchange Commission's electronic data gathering, analysis, and retrieval system (EDGAR), the State of Oregon's Secretary of State website, and a variety of databases.

SCHEDULE: Monday through Thursday: 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Working additional hours beyond the normal schedule may be required to meet firm and/or client demands.

Job #S20150213

APPLY

Perkins Coie LLP is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, genetic information, protected veterans, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status or any other category prohibited by local, state or federal law. This policy applies to all aspects of employment, including recruitment, placement, promotion, transfer, demotion, compensation, benefits, social and recreational activities and termination.

4. INTERVIEW: ANNIE SHEPARD '12, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW 1L

Annie Shepard is currently a 1L at the University of Texas School of Law (UT Law). Annie received her BA from Johns Hopkins University, where she double majored in Public Health and Spanish. She graduated with general honors in 2012 and was a Hodson Trust Scholar and a Dean's List student. At Hopkins, Annie was a forward on the varsity field hockey team and was named to the Centennial Conference Honor Roll and the NCAA Field Hockey DIII National Academic Squad. In 2010 she was named the JHU Field Hockey Most Improved Player. During Intersession of her junior and senior

years, Annie studied abroad in Madrid, Spain and Havana, Cuba. Annie was also an active member of Alpha Phi.

As an undergrad, Annie spent one summer working a bilingual teaching assistant in the Detroit Public School System, one summer taking classes at Hopkins, and one summer as an intern at the Parks and People Foundation in Baltimore. Before attending law school, she spent one year working at a gluten-free baking company in Michigan, and one year as a language-teaching assistant at an elementary school in Madrid, Spain.

At UT Law, Annie is a member of the Health Law & Bioethics Society and the Women's Law Caucus. She has also taken the UT Law Pro Bono Pledge.

Questions

1) Describe your typical day as a 1L at The University of Texas School of Law (UT Law).

On a typical weekday, I try to wake up early so I have time to get a real breakfast and do some reading before walking to class. I was never a morning person as an undergrad, but since starting law school I've found it to be a really productive time of day! Classes usually start around 9 or 10 in the morning and end between 2 and 4 in the afternoon. I spend most of my time between classes in the library, but, on the days when I need a break, I'll go out to lunch or coffee with friends. There are also tons of lunch events put on by different student organizations and departments every week. After class I'll study for a few hours and then relax with a glass of wine and (a lot of) Netflix.

2) To date, what has been your favorite law school class, and why?

It's hard to choose just one, but I think so far my favorite law school class has been Torts. I loved the cases and my professor, and I loved the new perspective it gave me on the law. I became especially interested in medical malpractice and toxic torts as a result. I think a lot of people come to law school (myself included) expecting to learn "the law," but that's not really what 1L year is about. What I've really learned is a new way of thinking about problems and issues.

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

I chose UT because I thought it would be an adventure! I had never spent a lot of time in this part of the country, and I heard a lot of great things about the quality of life in Austin (it hasn't disappointed!). UT is an outstanding law school, and it has excellent employment numbers for graduates, which was also really important part of my decision. One of my favorite things about UT is that it is competitive without being over the top intense -- everyone wants to do well, but we are all laid-back and genuinely like each other! There is a law school happy hour downtown every Thursday night, and other special events like Ex-Parte (our Halloween Party), and Casino Night. Texas is also a great place to practice environmental and energy law, which are two of my areas of interest.

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?

I didn't decide to apply to law school until after I graduated from Hopkins. The classes I took at the Bloomberg School of Public Health as a senior were a huge part of my decision, but I wasn't sure about law school until after I had spent a few months working after graduation. It was really good for me to spend some time thinking about my future before I jumped into anything! Many of my friends came to law school straight from undergrad, because they were sure this is what they wanted to do. I wasn't, and I'm glad I took the time off to make that decision. As far as experiences that strengthened my application go, I think that being an athlete in college, my work experience after college, and living abroad were all helpful.

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?

Prior to law school I worked in a bakery for one year and in an elementary school in Spain for a year. I worked in Spain through the government's "Auxiliares" program, which I heard about through sorority sisters and teammates who had done the program before me. I had always wanted to live abroad, and this was an amazing opportunity to do so before starting law school and a real career. Law school is tough, but my work experience helps me to keep things in perspective and feel confident that this was the right choice.

This summer I'm pursuing health law and energy law employment opportunities. I've researched options through the UT Career Services Office and on my own. I've also been in touch with friends and family members who practice law to see if they have any summer employment leads. In addition, next week I'll be participating in UT Law's Spring OCI (On Campus Interviews) for 1Ls, which is great opportunity to meet with firms and potentially find summer employment.

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?

Law school is harder than I anticipated, but I'm really enjoying the material that I'm learning. It's definitely different from undergrad, but in a good way! It's so important to remain open-minded coming in to it. I honestly didn't know what to expect with regard to the job search prior to law school, but that's been a learning experience. It can be exhausting, but it's also really exciting to think about getting practical legal experience during 1L summer and beyond. The recruitment process also helps you to get a better idea about what it's like to practice law in different environments.

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?

Make your decision when it's right for you! If you are unsure about law school or have goals that you want to achieve before attending, don't feel pressured to come to law school straight away. On the other hand, if you are certain that you want to attend law school, don't feel pressured to take time off before attending. While gaining work experience can help with certain specialized types of employment, at the end of the day I don't think it really makes a difference as long as you come to law school prepared and ready to work. I have classmates who took 10 years off before law school, classmates who came straight from undergrad, and classmates who did anything and everything in between. And honestly, as 1Ls we are all starting on the same foot. You are the only person who knows if you are ready or not, and everyone is different. As hard as it is, try not to listen to other people. Trust yourself, and you will end up in the right place, at the right time.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a law student at UT Law or would otherwise like to contact Annie Sheppard, you may reach her at: anna.shepard@utexas.edu.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Insider's Scoop: JHU Alum/Current Law Student & Mock Law Class

Location: TBD

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Time: 5-6pm

Description: JHU alumnus Jules Sanzon will discuss what it is like to be a law student -- a "day in the life." Additionally, there will be a mock law class taught by Dean Donald Tobin of UM Carey Law.

DC-Metro Area Law School Admissions Panel

Location: TBD

Date: April 21, 2015

Time: 12-1pm

Description: Admissions Officers from Georgetown University Law Center, George Washington University Law School, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, University of Baltimore School of Law, and American University, Washington College of Law will discuss their respective schools and the law school admissions process.

Upcoming LSAT Administration

Location: Visit <http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/testing-locations> for testing location information.

Date: June 8, 2015 / October 3, 2015 / December 5, 2015

Time: Registration begins at 12:30 am for the June 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 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  
Skype: preprof\_adrosco1  
email: [adrosco1@jhu.edu](mailto:adrosco1@jhu.edu)  
[web.jhu.edu/prepro](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro)