



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

\*Best viewed in HTML\*

**Vol. 8, No. 11**

Friday, March 27, 2015

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**1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.**

I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break. As I'm sure most, if not all, of you know by now, the 2016 *US News and World Report* rankings for "The Best Law Schools" were released on March 10, 2015. In conjunction with that release, I would also encourage you to read this well-written and insightful article:

<http://www.law.com/sites/kylepatrickmcentee/2015/03/09/five-failures-of-the-u-s-news-rankings/>

Consider the above article one of the many grains of salt to keep in mind when reviewing the rankings of one magazine:

<http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/law-rankings>

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

Hansen, Mark. "**Legal Ed Section's council approves change in reporting of school-funded jobs.**" *ABA Journal*. Web. 16 Mar. 2015.

[http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/legal\\_ed\\_sections\\_council\\_approves\\_change\\_in\\_reporting\\_of\\_school\\_funded\\_job/?utm\\_source=maestro&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=daily\\_email](http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/legal_ed_sections_council_approves_change_in_reporting_of_school_funded_job/?utm_source=maestro&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily_email) -- actions taken by the ABA Council change the way information about law grads with school funded jobs is reported.

Kitroeff, Natalie. "**Law School Applications Set to Hit 15-Year Low: Law school is falling out of favor with Americans, new data show.**" *Bloomberg*. Web. 19

Mar. 2015.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-19/law-school-applications-will-hit-their-lowest-point-in-15-years> -- report on the decline in applications to US law schools, notes that “the decline has spurred programs to use strange survival tactics.”

Schmidt, Peter. “**Students’ Requests for Their Admissions Records Prompt Colleges to Purge Documents.**” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Web. 20 Mar. 2015. [http://chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/students-requests-for-own-admissions-records-prompt-colleges-to-purge-documents/95831?cid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/students-requests-for-own-admissions-records-prompt-colleges-to-purge-documents/95831?cid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en) -- the law schools at Yale and Stanford have responded to widespread student requests for copies of their admission records by destroying those records.

### **3. OPPORTUNITY: SPECIAL COUNSEL/RECRUITER SEEKS HR/RECRUITING ASSISTANT FOR AMLAW CLIENT IN DOWNTOWN BALTIMORE**

*This sounds like it could be a good opportunity for someone who is graduating this May and looking for a gap year opportunity in a legal setting:*

Ally Amerson, Esq., Business Development Director of Baltimore Special Counsel, is: “assisting a large AmLaw client in finding a new HR/Recruiting Assistant to join their downtown Baltimore office. They are looking for a bright, somewhat entry-level individual to join their HR/Attorney recruiting team. The individual would be responsible for assisting with Summer Associate recruitment, planning summer associate events and activities, assisting with first year associate and lateral attorney recruitment and scheduling interviews. The position would allow someone who is considering law school to gain exposure to a large law firm, understand the landscape for legal employment after law school, have exposure to what makes a strong resume, and also have exposure to networking opportunities with lawyers in Baltimore.

Ideally, the firm is looking for someone who can start immediately (so someone who graduated in 2014) or on a part-time basis until graduation in May. In May, the firm hopes the individual can join their team full-time for the rest of the summer and into the fall and next year.”

*To learn more about the position and/or to apply, please contact Ally Amerson directly at: [Ally.Amerson@SpecialCounsel.com](mailto:Ally.Amerson@SpecialCounsel.com)*

### **4. INTERVIEW: DILVEER S. VAHALI '07, ASSOCIATE, KIRKLAND & ELLIS, LLP**



Dilveer S. Vahali is an Associate at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP in Los Angeles, CA. Dilveer concentrates his practice in mergers & acquisitions, private

equity, and corporate finance transactions. He represents buyers, sellers, private equity funds and their portfolio companies, and financial institutions in a variety of corporate transactions including mergers and acquisitions, secured and unsecured acquisition financings, and leveraged buyouts. While in law school, Dilveer was a Summer Associate at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP in 2012 and 2013, before joining the firm full time. He also summered at Hogan Lovells US LLP in 2011 and 2013.

Dilveer received his JD from the University of Southern California (USC) Law School in May 2014. While at USC Law School, Dilveer was in the Hale Moot Court Honors Program and the Transactional LawMeet National Champion in 2013. He was the 2L/3L President and Commencement Speaker, a 2011 Peer Mentor, Law School Chair and Co-President of the USC Chapter of the South Asian Association of Southern California, and was a Student Attorney in the Immigration Clinic. Dilveer also received his MBA in May 2014 from the USC Marshall School of Business.

Prior to receiving his JD-MBA, Dilveer was a Mergers & Acquisitions Consultant at Online Res in Encino, CA and a Finance Analyst with Citigroup Corporate Mergers & Acquisitions in New York, NY. He was a Finance Summer Analyst with the Citigroup Smith Barney Controllers Division in New York, NY while still in college.

Dilveer received his BA, with University Honors, in International Studies from Johns Hopkins University in May 2007. He minored in Entrepreneurship and Management, as well as Economics. While at Hopkins, Dilveer was a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, President of the South Asian Society, Social Chair of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, and Captain and Co-Founder of the Competitive Folk Dance (Bhangra) Team. He studied abroad twice, at the University of Edinburgh and the London School of Economics. While in Edinburgh, he was a Researcher for the Scottish Parliament.

Dilveer S. Vahali is a FAA certified private pilot, conversational in Hindi, Punjabi and Spanish, and a voluntary cultural trainer for the TSA. He is licensed to practice law in California.

### **Questions**

**1) Describe a day in the life of a law firm associate; feel free to describe your most memorable day on the job to date.**

I usually get in around 9:30 or 10 (after checking and responding to e-mails in the morning). I'll usually have a task left over from the day before or someone asking me to do something which needs to be sent out that day. A typical task that I've been given would be something like creating abstract summaries of various agreements or sometimes marking up a confidentiality agreement (marking up being changing it with comments). That task will usually go until about lunch or a little after lunch. We have a lot of trainings our first few years at Kirkland so we may have an afternoon training on

another topic. Then depending on how busy it is, I will work on another deal I have until about 6 or 7 and go home. I will usually end up working a little bit after dinner if there are still things to answer or send out.

**2) What did you pursue during your law school summers and before beginning your current position? How did you go about researching these opportunities?**

During both of my summers I worked at various law firms. My first summer I did both litigation and corporate work, but that made me realize that I wanted corporate work more. My next summer I only did corporate transcriptional work. Both of my offers I got through on campus recruiting.

**3) What initially attracted you to your current field?**

I was attracted to corporate law mainly because of my background in business. I enjoy negotiating, and as a corporate attorney, there are many opportunities to negotiate around various terms and portions of agreements even as a young attorney. I also understood corporate law a little better because of my background in finance.

**4) 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 a lot less about learning "law" than it is about learning how to think. Your first year will be much more difficult than you may have pictured, but years 2 and 3 are not as intensive. The job search, for me at least, has as much to do with your experience as with your grades.

**5) What was your favorite law school class, and why? How did you go about choosing classes after your first year of law school?**

I took a real estate transactions class which I really enjoyed. There were a lot of guest speakers in the course who actually worked in the field and I felt that it was a very practical course. I really learned about how actual lawyers practice (and not just theory). I chose classes that interested me on a personal level, or courses I felt would help me as a corporate attorney. I also chose to do a clinic which is great for real world experience.

**6) 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?**

There are courses offered in business law which I took and enjoyed. Beyond that, I think it is really learning how to be a good student and getting good grades and LSAT score that will help with the law school application.

**7) What made you choose University of Southern California Law School (USC), and did it meet your expectations? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school, and, particularly, USC?**

I decided to go to USC because of the location (I am from Los Angeles), network and reputation. I do think that USC is a great school; it is less cut throat than a lot of other schools of similar caliber. I think the community of students there is probably the biggest pro, as a con I'd say they don't get as much national attention as I think it should. I truly enjoyed my time there. Generally in terms of law school, I really enjoyed learning how to "think" like an attorney. It is not about memorizing various legal rules, but rather how to apply rules. The cons that come with that, however, are a lot of work and stress at times.

**8) 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 an associate?**

My biggest piece of advice would be to think about law school not as a path to making a lot of money. True, it can be lucrative, but I have just as many classmates who are saddled with a lot of debt and are not happy about their decision. I also suggest taking some time before law school to work as I think it gives perspective on your career.

**Contact Information**

If you would like to learn more about being a law student at USC Law, an Associate at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP, or would otherwise like to contact Dilveer S. Vahali, you may reach him at: [dilveer.vahali@kirkland.com](mailto:dilveer.vahali@kirkland.com). Dilveer notes that "people follow [abovethelaw.com](http://abovethelaw.com) quite a bit."

**5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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  
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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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