JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY
Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

The Pre-Law e-Newsletter from Pre-Professional Programs & Advising
Best viewed in HTML

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

If you intend to apply to law school this upcoming Fall, for matriculation Fall 2016, please schedule an appointment with me before the semester ends so that we can best prepare you for the process. To schedule an appointment with me, please visit the following link: https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/vkb5m10/10

Please note that there will be a DC-Law School Admissions Panel on Tuesday, April 21 from 12 to 1pm in Shaffer 100. 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 application and admissions process. Hope to see you there!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Solomon, Steven Davidoff. **"Law Schools and Industry Show Signs of Life, Despite Forecasts of Doom."** *The New York Times: DealBook*. Web. 31 Mar. 2015 http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/01/business/dealbook/despite-forecasts-of-doom-signs-of-life-in-the-legal-industry.html?_r=0 -- discusses several new studies that "point to signs of vigorous life in the legal job market, at least toward the higher end."

Harper, Steven J. **"Misreading the Legal Sector's Outlook."** *Am Law Daily*. Web. 3 Apr. 2015. http://www.americanlawyer.com/id=1202722601182/Misreading-the-Legal-Sectors-Outlookhttp://www.americanlawyer.com/id=1202722601182/Misreading-the-Legal-Sectors-Outlook -- counters last week's NYT op-ed (above) by a Berkeley law professor who made a case that everything is going to be just fine for law firms and law schools.

Cassens Weiss, Debra. **"Law profs design course to combat student anxiety."** *ABA Journal*. Web. 9 Apr. 2015. http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/law_profs_design_course_to_combat_student_anxiety/ -- three law professors have designed a two-hour course for 1Ls that uses behavioral therapy to promote emotional health among law students and reduce stress and anxiety.

3. GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY: PARALEGAL SPECIALIST(S), OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COUNSEL, UNITED STATES FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The United States Food and Drug Administration, Office of the Chief Counsel, has openings for 4 paralegal specialists. This is a **Recent Graduate** position under the **Pathways Program** within the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Office of the Commissioner. The program duration is one year, and the salary range is $43,057.00 to $55,970.00 annually. Upon successful completion of the program and at the agency's discretion, the appointee may be converted to a term or permanent position in the competitive service. This position is located in the U.S. Department of Health and human Services, Food and Drug Administration, Office of the Commissioner, Office of the Chief Counsel, Silver Spring, Maryland. **Spring 2015 graduates are encouraged to apply.** Applicants must have a GPA of 2.8 or higher and US Citizenship.

DUTIES:

Under the supervision of attorneys and experienced paralegals, recent graduate paralegal specialists will develop a familiarity with the day-to-day activities of a government agency General Counsel's office through a variety of duties such as:

- Conduct searches for and summarizes relevant legal articles, testimony or depositions, preparing and organization exhibits, and verifying citations and legal references in proposed legal and regulatory documents.
- Drafts and edits standard legal documents, reports, and correspondence.
- Reviews, prepares, and processes standard legal documents, such as claims, response to discovery and FOIA requests, and other documents.
- Work under the direction of attorneys to track case developments; organize and locate relevant evidence; prepare case status summaries and reports; conduct basic factual and legal research; prepares litigation binders, assemble and prepare legal exhibits; monitor case activity; maintain and update case statistics; assist in trial preparation.
- Assist attorneys by providing simple legal research and information in support of their responses to Congress.
- Prepare descriptive and background reports, bill summaries, surveys of laws, compilations of laws and bills, and legislative histories of an uncomplicated nature in response to requests from members of Congress.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

For more complete information, and to apply, visit: https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/399276100

4. INTERVIEW: JEREMY ESPERON '08, ASSOCIATE, INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICE GROUP, MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Jeremy Esperon is an Associate in the Washington, DC office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. He is a member of the firm's investment management practice group. Jeremy's practice focuses on the regulation of investment companies and investment advisers. He assists clients with the formation, registration, and ongoing regulation of investment companies, including exchange-traded funds. He also provides ongoing advice regarding various regulatory compliance and securities law issues.

Prior to joining Morgan Lewis, Jeremy worked for six years as a paralegal for Legg Mason, a global investment management firm, where he advised the company and its affiliates worldwide on a wide range of intellectual property matters.

Jeremy graduated from the University of Maryland Carey School of Law (UM Carey Law) with a JD in 2014. While in law school, he was a Writing Fellow in the Legal Writing Program and a Translator for the Immigration Clinic. In addition to continuing his work at Legg Mason, Jeremy was a Judicial Intern at the Maryland Court of Appeals one summer and a long term Research Assistant for the authors of *Regulation of Financial Planners*.

Jeremy graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 2008 with a BA in Economics. While at JHU, he was an Office Assistant in the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, an Editorial Intern for Baltimore City Paper, Secretary of Alpha Phi Omega, and a Sales Associate at Signature Stationers. He also studied abroad in Shanghai, China the summer before his junior year.

Jeremy Esperon is proficient in French and Spanish and conversant in Mandarin Chinese. He is admitted to practice in the State of Maryland.

Questions

1) Describe what it's like to be an Associate in the Investment Management Practice Group at Morgan Lewis.

Investment management lawyers help clients set up financial products like mutual funds and exchange-traded funds. This requires a familiarity with state corporate laws as well as federal securities laws. We also advise clients on regulatory and compliance issues that affect the fund industry, which are constantly evolving. As an associate, I get to do a lot of drafting and reviewing of documents, such as fund registration statements, service provider agreements, and organizational documents. Much of the legal research I do takes place in the world of the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is the governmental agency tasked with enforcing the securities laws and regulating the fund industry.

Associates in investment management are typically assigned to teams that service a particular client's legal needs. One of the great things about working in investment management is that these client teams tend to be very efficiently staffed, which has allowed me to take on a good amount of responsibility and have client contact early on. Of course, this can also make for very long days, especially around board meeting season, which comes around once a quarter. Also, people in the financial services world move at a very fast pace and they need us to keep up with that, so I have to be on my toes in that respect all the time.

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 the summer between my second and third years of law school, I was a judicial intern for Judge Sally D. Adkins of the Maryland Court of Appeals. This was a great opportunity for me to enhance my writing skills - I drafted approximately 10 bench memos over the course of the summer - and to interact with a member of the highest court in Maryland. I secured this position because I had worked with Judge Adkins' law clerk at the time - we were both teaching assistants for one of the school's writing classes. This speaks to the importance of networking.

During the summer between my third and fourth year (remember, I was an evening student, so my program lasted four years), I was a summer associate at Bingham McCutchen LLP (you may have seen in the legal news that a substantial number of Bingham's lawyers joined Morgan Lewis in November of 2014, which is how I had the opportunity to join Morgan Lewis). Bingham served as counsel to a number of Legg Mason fund families, so I was familiar with the firm and could talk to a lot of people who had worked with Bingham lawyers. It was very helpful to have this kind of insight while I was researching summer opportunities because it gave me a sense of what the firm and its lawyers were like and, when I received my summer associate offer, what I could expect.

3) What initially attracted you to your current field?

I became exposed to the fund industry when I started working at Legg Mason after college. It's a phenomenal industry that plays a huge role in the economy - according to the Investment Company Institute, at year-end 2013, U.S. registered investment companies (think mutual funds, ETFs, and other such products) managed over $17 trillion in assets. I was attracted to the fund industry because of its mission - this is money that will be used, among other things, to fund peoples' retirement and higher education.

I was also attracted to the industry because of its complexity. There is a very sophisticated legal framework that governs the industry, there are a tremendous number of parties involved in running a mutual fund, and there is constant innovation in product development. This makes for challenging, but rewarding (and certainly intellectually stimulating) work.

Perhaps most importantly, I have had the opportunity from the start to work with fantastic people for whom "doing the right thing" - for clients and for each other - was the only way to do business. The fund industry operates under a fiduciary standard that requires its participants to earn the trust of investors every day. That's the kind of industry I wanted to work in.

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?

If I had been told while I was an undergrad that my career path involved going to law school, I wouldn't have believed it. I think a big reason for that is that when people think of lawyers and law school, they think only of the litigation side of it, and that can turn people off from the entire profession if they don't think they have the right personality for being a trial lawyer. I would encourage students who are trying to figure out what they want to do after college to consider the options for which law school prepares its students. Legal training opens up more doors than those of a courtroom: in addition to litigation, lawyers can do transactional work, work for companies, work for the government, the list goes on and on. What I think most lawyers do have in common is that a significant amount of our time is spent researching and writing - that's a big part of our reality that you should consider if you think you might want to go to law school. Of course, it's also important to keep in mind that for most people, the years spent in law school are some of their most difficult ones. That shouldn't discourage anyone from going to law school, but it is a reality worth appreciating ahead of time.

As for the job search, it was a challenging experience, but the most stressful part of that experience for me was the uncertainty. So much of the job search process was beyond my control - whether an interviewer was going to like what I had to offer, how long I had to wait to hear back, and so on. All I could do was focus on what I could control - making sure my interview skills were sharp, having a good (and error-free) resume, and networking, networking, networking. Being anxious about the job search process was helpful to the extent it kept me motivated, but being anxious because I was worried about things I could not control was simply not productive. It took me some time to be able to manage that.

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 knew that writing would be important to my future as a lawyer, so I took a number of writing classes that collectively were my favorite. During my first year, I took two writing classes - Legal Analysis and Writing, which covered the basics of drafting legal memoranda, and Written and Oral Advocacy, where I got to work on drafting litigation documents. Afterwards, I took a class about contract drafting and another where I worked on intellectual property-specific agreements. These classes were my favorite because they were small classes where I got to make connections with my professors, who were practicing attorneys (one class was taught by a judge, another by two partners at a local law firm, for example). These relationships are invaluable. The smaller class size also let me interact more closely with my classmates, which is hard to do in large lecture-style classes.

I also got to take a class called Counseling and Negotiation, where we learned how to listen effectively, persuade, and meet the emotional and psychological needs, in addition to legal needs, of clients. This was an interactive class where we did a lot of simulations and role-playing. Again, this class was taught by a current practitioner (a judge from the Maryland Court of Appeals, no less), so I picked up a number of practical skills that I couldn't have learned in a lecture.

6) What made you decide to go to law school? Were there any experiences that you felt were particularly helpful in strengthening your application to law school?

The most important factor in my decision to apply to law school was my work at Legg Mason. Here, my colleagues in the legal department were some of the most intelligent, driven, and respected people I knew - they provided me with a model for my career that I wanted (and still want) to emulate. The experience of seeing lawyers being lawyers on a daily basis helped me make an informed decision about law school because I knew what I was getting into. It also helped me get through some of the more stressful times in law school because I knew what I was working towards. My work experience is also something I draw on heavily now that I am an associate. I could not recommend having some legal work experience before deciding to apply to law school highly enough.

7) What made you choose UM Carey Law and did it meet your expectations? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school, and, particularly, UM Carey Law?

A number of the lawyers I worked with had gone to UM Carey Law and they really talked up their experiences there, so I wanted to go there, too. They have a fantastic program for evening students and attract very strong adjunct faculty. One of my favorite things about UM Carey Law was its size: it is a smaller school, with around 200-300 people per class year, so I felt like I was part of a strong community where everyone knew each other, including the staff and faculty. The school also had (and continues to have) a very strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, which made for a very rich experience for me.

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?

Without question, get some work experience before you start, preferably in the legal industry. It helps in so many ways: it helped me transition into law school because I wasn't completely unfamiliar with legal analysis and legal writing, it helped me stand out during the job search process because I had substantive experience to talk about, and it is helping me now as an associate at a law firm because I was a client once and I know what that experience is like, and that experience informs my practice.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a law student at UM Carey Law, investment management, Morgan Lewis, or would otherwise like to contact Jeremy Esperon, you may reach him at: **Jeremy.esperon@morganlewis.com**.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

DC-Metro Area Law School Admissions Panel
Location: Shaffer 100
Date: Tuesday, 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 application and 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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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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