



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

\*Best viewed in HTML\*

### Vol. 8, No. 2

Friday, September 19, 2014

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

Many programs announcements have recently come to light and been added to Section 5, including: a law fair at UB Law -- featuring law schools from around the country, a Columbia Law School Information Session, and a Yale Law School webinar.

Additionally, The Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising, the Office of Academic Services, the Career Center, the Office of Study Abroad and the International Students and Scholars Office are hosting an **Open House for Freshmen & Sophomores on Tuesday, September 30th from 4-5pm**. Freshmen & Sophomores should **stop by the third floor of Garland Hall for free food and drinks**, to learn more about the services offered by each co-host office, and the chance to win \$10 gift cards from Chipotle, Starbucks, Subway, Potbelly & Cold Stone Creamery.

*Best of luck to those taking the September 27th LSAT!*

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

Editorial. "**Where Are All the Law School Applicants?**" *The Connecticut Law Tribune*. Web. 08 Sept. 2014. <http://www.ctlawtribune.com/id=1202669278384/Editorial-Where-Are-All-the-Law-School-Applicants> -- concludes that a weak job market and a growing wariness about student debt were the double whammy that led to the collapse of the admissions pool/the dramatic decline in law school applications (nothing too new/groundbreaking here, but a good article nonetheless).

Parnell, David J. "**Dr. Silvia Hodges Silverstein, On The Evolution Of Legal Consumers.**" *Forbes*. Web. 08 Sept. 2014. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidparnell/2014/09/08/dr-silvia-hodges-silverstein-on-the-evolution-of-legal-consumers/> -- interview with Columbia and Fordham Law Professor Hodges Silverstein on how corporate legal services purchasing behaviors have changed in recent years -- which directly impacts law firm structure and, in turn, hiring.

Friedman, Thomas. "It Takes a Mentor," *The New York Times*. Web. 10 Sept. 2014.  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/10/opinion/thomas-friedman-it-takes-a-mentor.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/10/opinion/thomas-friedman-it-takes-a-mentor.html?_r=0) -- *Op-Ed reviews new research from Gallup that finds successful students had one or more teachers mentors and an internship related to what they were learning in school; findings are as applicable to law school students as they are to college students.*

Thomason, Andy. "Student-Loan Forgiveness Programs Encourage Borrowers to Take On More Debt, Report Says," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Web. 10 Sept. 2014.  
<http://chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/loan-forgiveness-encourages-student-borrowers-to-take-on-more-debt/85729> -- *new research finds that the federal income-based loan repayment program and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program have encouraged students to borrow more (students show a greater willingness to borrow when they know the debt is eligible for forgiveness because the additional costs of borrowing more money are negligible to them) which has "allow[ed] institutions to charge higher tuitions, especially for certain programs, like health care, social work, education, and government, where borrowers would go on to qualify for PSLF." Law school graduates can also qualify for PSLF, although these findings were not the intent of the program!*

### 3. OPPORTUNITY: CLEO CONNECTION PROGRAM

CLEO is a non-profit project of the American Bar Association. Since 1968, CLEO has helped more than 7,000 low-income and minority students become successful members of the legal profession. The College Scholars Program seeks to continue this standard of excellence through a collaborative effort between CLEO and colleges and universities throughout the United States.

The [CLEO CONNECTION](#) program provides a person-to-person environment where under-represented students can:

- **Find answers** to important questions about law school,
- **Create a local network** of colleagues and legal professional guides, and
- **Develop an understanding** of the legal field culture

**When:** Oct. 16, Nov. 20 & Dec. 18, 2014 (Thursday) 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Washington, D.C.

**How:** Register for FREE. Click here: [CLEO Connection website](#) (click on D.C.)

### 4. INTERVIEW: SALMAH RIZVI '08, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (NYU) SCHOOL OF LAW 2L

Raised as a Shia Muslim, Salmah Rizvi was motivated to fight inequality from an early age. In high school, she served as the youngest ever Student Human Rights Commissioner in Howard County. As a sophomore at the Johns Hopkins University, she founded the relief organization Vision XChange (V|X) which raised money through creative events to combat injustices such as child soldier recruitment. While obtaining an M.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, she volunteered at the Emancipation Network in Kolkata to help survivors of human trafficking.

Salmah also worked fulltime for the U.S. Departments of State and Defense as a lead linguist and analyst, mastering multiple foreign languages including Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi and gaining expertise in

international security and diplomacy. Her high-value work would often inform the President's Daily Briefs. At the Department, she also spearheaded educational initiatives to progress reporting on the Muslim world. Salmah was appointed the first Chairwoman of the Department's Islamic Cultural Employee Resource Group, leading ninety-two individuals to improve diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to highlight Muslims as assets, rather than threats, to American national security.

Following these leadership experiences, Salmah decided that legal training would help her advocate for the issues closest to her heart. She is currently pursuing a JD at the New York University School of Law and hopes ultimately to combine her legal, security and nonprofit experience into a role as an effective civic leader. This summer, she worked for Al-Haq as a Center for Human Rights and Global Justice Fellow, writing legal briefs and advocating for Palestinian freedoms and human rights.

## **Questions**

### **1) Describe your typical day as a law student at New York University (NYU) School of Law.**

My typical day as a 2L is very different from my typical day as a 1L. As a 1L, my day would consist of going to class and TA sessions and being involved on various campus activities while attending conferences and symposia that were sponsored by the school. As a 2L, I am in a clinic with real clients and my days are much busier but also more fun as I get to do the work I love and take the classes I enjoy. 1L classes are assigned to you. NYU always has fun events on campus that are educational and informative. Each day, you will see a sense of activism on campus that is inspirational.

### **2) To date, what has been your favorite law school class, and why? How have you been choosing classes after your first year of law school?**

I just began 2L so I am not sure what my favorite class will be. As a 1L, my favorite class was Contracts Law taught by Richard Epstein, because he is hilarious and will keep you laughing the entire class. He is also a genius who knows how to give practical advice about contract law. You will leave his class being intellectually and practically engaged with Contracts Law.

### **3) What made you choose NYU School of Law? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school?**

I was choosing between NYU and Columbia, and I asked alumni from both schools about their experiences. No one I met that attended Columbia enjoyed their experience at the law school, while everyone I met who attended NYU raved about their experiences. As such, I wanted to be somewhere that was happy and fun. I was worried about missing out on the prestige associated with an Ivy League school, but I am so glad I made the decision I did. I have been able to receive the jobs I want and make the connections I want without having to sacrifice my happiness.

### **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?**

While in undergrad, I founded Vision XChange which deepened my interest in international human rights and international law. What really drove me to law school, however, were my professional

experiences after graduation. I also received a Masters before attending law school which helped me realize that I should attend law school at some point in the future.

**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?**

I worked for five years fulltime at the National Security Agency (NSA) and the U.S. State Department following college. I studied international relations and anthropology at Hopkins so government work was a natural fit for me. I learned about opportunities in government through various scholarship programs which paid for school and allowed me work for the government during my summers in undergrad.

**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?**

I want to encourage you to follow your dreams and be cautious of advice from others that may force you to tamper your aspirations. I was encouraged not to apply to top law schools, because of my LSAT scores, yet I was accepted or waitlisted into most of the T-15 schools include Harvard and Stanford. While applying for law firm jobs, I was encouraged not to apply to certain firms because of their GPA cut-offs, yet I have received offers from my dream firms. All in all, many people will paint a bleak picture about your prospects of getting into law school and getting a job after law school. It is important to have back-ups, but it is equally important to put yourself out there, make yourself vulnerable, and apply to opportunities that you may think are out of your reach. You may be surprised by a positive outcome.

**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?**

I would recommend that you go to a law school that has classes in the things you want to study. For example, if you want to learn about international law, NYU is the place for you. If you want to learn about IP law, Stanford may be a better fit. Each school has their strengths and weaknesses. Make sure that the school's strengths are aligned with your interests. Also, if you know where you want to be after graduation from law school, I would highly recommend you apply to law schools in that area. Various legal markets really value regional law schools. For example, I would have loved to be in Baltimore after graduation but of the hundreds of law firms that were recruiting from NYU this past fall, none of them were from Baltimore. As such, take into account the regional influence of a law school when making your decision. Best of luck!

**Contact Information**

If you would like to learn more about working at the NSA, NYU Law or would otherwise like to contact Salmah Rizvi, you may reach her at: [syr223@nyu.edu](mailto:syr223@nyu.edu).

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

**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.

**Freshmen & Sophomore Open House**

Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of Garland Hall

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Time: 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Description: The Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising, the Office of Academic Services, the Career Center, the Office of Study Abroad and the International Students and Scholars Office are hosting an open house for freshmen & sophomores. Stop by the third floor of Garland Hall for free food and drinks, to learn more about the services offered by each co-host office, and to earn your chance to win \$10 gift cards from Chipotle, Starbucks, Subway, Potbelly & Cold Stone Creamery.

**Yale Law School Webinar**

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2014

Time: 12pm to 1pm

Description: The Yale Law School (YLS) Admissions Office will be hosting a video webinar for prospective law school applicants from Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Virginia. This event is open to current students, alumni, and staff of Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, and UVA. A YLS Admission representative will be on hand to answer questions about legal education, the application process, and life at Yale Law School. The format of the webinar is question and answer, so be sure to come prepared with questions. Advance registration is required. Invitations to the webinar are being sent via LSAC's Candidate Referral Service and additional information will be forthcoming.

**Baltimore Regional Law Fair**

*Hosted by the University of Baltimore School of Law*

Location: John and Frances Angelos Law Center, 1401 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Date: Tuesday, October 14

Time: Admissions Panel -- 6pm; Law Fair -- 6:30 to 8pm

Description: Meet with representatives from law schools across the country -- from California to Massachusetts -- at the Baltimore regional Law Fair. No R.S.V.P. required -- walk-ins welcome.

For more information, including a list of participating law schools, visit

<http://law.ubalt.edu/admissions/>

**Columbia Law School Info Session**

Location: TBD

Date: October 2014 (TBD)

Time: 12pm to 1pm

Description: An admissions representative from Columbia Law School will present an information session and answer questions.

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**STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING**

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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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