



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

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Friday, October 3, 2014

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Just a reminder that there will be a law school fair at UB Law on Tuesday, October 14 from 6:30pm to 8pm (http://law.ubalt.edu/admissions/regional_law_fair/index.cfm). UB Law School is accessible via the JHMI shuttle, just south of the Penn Station stop. If you are applying to any of the participating law schools, consider attending as an opportunity to not only learn more about the law school, but to further promote yourself!

The 70+ Participating Law Schools Include:

- Albany Law School
- American University Washington College of Law
- Appalachian School of Law
- Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
- Barry University School of Law
- Boston College Law School
- Boston University School of Law
- Brooklyn Law School
- Campbell Law School
- Case Western Reserve University School of Law
- Chapman University Fowler School of Law
- Charleston School of Law
- Charlotte School of Law
- Dickinson Law
- Drexel University School of Law
- Duquesne University School of Law
- Elon University School of Law
- Florida Coastal School of Law
- Florida International University College of Law
- Fordham Law School

- George Mason University School of Law
- Golden Gate University School of Law
- Hofstra University Maurice A. Deane School of Law
- Howard University School of Law
- Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- Marquette University Law School
- Michigan State University College of Law
- New England Law | Boston
- New York Law School
- Northeastern University School of Law
- Notre Dame Law School
- Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center
- Pace Law School
- Penn State Law
- Quinnipiac University School of Law
- Regent University School of Law
- Roger Williams University School of Law
- Rutgers University School of Law - Newark
- Saint Louis University School of Law
- Savannah Law School
- Seattle University School of Law
- Seton Hall Law School
- South Texas College of Law
- St. John's Law School
- St. Thomas University School of Law
- Stetson University College of Law
- Suffolk University Law School
- SUNY Buffalo Law School
- Syracuse University College of Law
- Temple University Beasley School of Law
- The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law
- The John Marshall Law School
- The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
- Tulane University Law School
- UC Hastings College of the Law
- UNC School of Law at Chapel Hill
- Univ. of Tennessee College of Law
- University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law
- University of Baltimore School of Law
- University of California, Irvine School of Law
- University of DC School of Law
- University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
- University of Michigan Law School
- University of New Hampshire School of Law
- University of Pennsylvania Law School
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law
- University of Richmond School of Law
- University of San Francisco

- University of South Carolina School of Law
- University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law
- Vermont Law School
- Villanova University School of Law
- Wake Forest University School of Law
- Washington and Lee University School of Law
- Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School
- Western New England University
- Widener University School of Law
- William & Mary Law School
- WVU College of Law
- Yeshiva University Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Shang, Eva. "Setting the bar: Is law school the right move for you?" *USA Today*. Web. 30 Sept. 2014. <http://college.usatoday.com/2014/09/30/setting-the-bar-is-law-school-the-right-move-for-you/> -- discusses the decision to apply to law school at a time when the job market is recovering and the number of law school applicants is continuing to decline.

The YL Editorial Board. "If Unchanged, Legal Education Will Remain a Business in Decline." *The Legal Intelligencer*. Web. 25 Sept. 2014. <http://www.thelegalintelligencer.com/id=1202671222119/If-Unchanged-Legal-Education-Will-Remain-a-Business-in-Decline> -- editorial by the Young Lawyers Editorial Board for *The Legal Intelligencer*, arguing that law schools have failed to adapt their business and education models quickly enough to continue to thrive (and maybe even to survive).

Mangan, Katherine. "As Law School Struggles to Stay Open, Some See 'a Canary in the Coal Mine.'" *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Web. 24 Sept. 2014. http://chronicle.com/article/As-Law-School-Struggles-to/148973/?cid=wb&utm_source=wb&utm_medium=en -- discusses the possible closure of some law schools, given the current application and enrollment climate.

3. OPPORTUNITY: COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) VOLUNTEER

For those interested in child advocacy, consider the following opportunity:

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) represents the best interests of children in the court system. As trained advocates, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers are appointed by judges to be a voice for these children. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers gather information to present to the court about steps that will move the child's life in a positive direction. The result is that children are placed into safe, loving, permanent homes where they can thrive.

Any mature, responsible, caring and sensitive adult, at least 21 years of age can become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). The Mental Health Association welcomes Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers from all cultural, professional, ethnic, and educational backgrounds.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer must complete an extensive screening process by submitting a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer application, completing interviews, supplying a State/FBI fingerprint background check, passing the State Child Abuse/Neglect Registry background check, and providing personal references.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers undergo a 30 hour initial training process and must complete 12 hours of ongoing training per year. Training includes the following topics:

- Laws about child abuse and neglect
- The court and social services systems
- Family and child development
- Communication skills
- Cultural competency
- Special needs of abused and neglected children

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers have considerable flexibility in scheduling their interviews and telephone calls. However, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) must be available to attend court hearings. Over the average case involvement of one year, a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer may expect to spend an average of two hours per week working on a case.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer offers a child trust and advocacy during complex legal proceedings. The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) encourages the child to express his or her own opinions and hopes, while remaining an objective observer and advocating for what is in the child's best interest.

For more information about the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, please contact [Jennifer Fuss](#) at 301-663-0011 ext. 118 or visit the [National CASA website](#). If you are interested in becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer, please fill out the [Volunteer Application](#).

CASA opportunity link:

<http://www.fcmha.org/courtappointedspecialadvocates/index.php?p=CASAForVolunteers>

4. INTERVIEW: DOUGLAS J. STEINKE '98, COMMERCIAL LITIGATION/INSURANCE & REINSURANCE ATTORNEY

Douglas J. Steinke is an attorney at Carroll McNulty & Kull, LLC in New York City. His practice focuses on representing insurance and reinsurance companies in litigation and arbitration proceedings. Mr. Steinke has successfully represented insurers in numerous actions in state and federal courts nationwide. He represented an insurer at the Phase I trial in a \$300 million insurance coverage action involving an industrial talc manufacturer, and he has briefed and argued motions and appeals at multiple levels. Mr. Steinke has considerable experience representing insurers with respect to mass tort and environmental claims. Prior to joining Carroll McNulty & Kull, he was an attorney at a Manhattan firm where he focused on insurance coverage and reinsurance law.

Mr. Steinke graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1998 and is the former Editor-in-Chief of the Johns Hopkins News-Letter. He also holds a Master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and a Juris Doctor from St. John's University School of Law. He is admitted to practice law in New York State and in several federal trial and appellate courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States.

1) Describe a day in the life of an attorney at Carroll McNulty & Kull, LLC.

I represent insurance and reinsurance companies in disputes with each other and other companies. Most of my work involves litigation, but I also advise clients on matters that are in arbitration or mediation as well as business disputes and other matters. No two days are exactly alike. On any given day I may draft motions, take depositions, appear before the courts that preside over my cases, prepare appellate briefs, work on arbitrations, make phone calls and draft e-mails, or do some or all of the above.

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

I majored in English at Hopkins and often thought about becoming an attorney. After serving as editor-in-chief of the *News-Letter*, I worked in journalism for a few years before going to law school. Litigation was a logical fit for me because it usually involves writing, and writing came naturally to me. I also tend to be competitive, which is a good personality trait to have in my field because litigation at the most basic level is about winning and losing.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my line of work is persuading others. I will never forget the time I argued my first appeal. I could tell from the questions that the appellate judges were asking at oral argument that the Court was inclined to rule in my client's favor, but getting the winning decision a few weeks after that was exhilarating.

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?

The practice of law is hard work that sometimes entails working very long hours. I have never shied away from working hard, and even at Hopkins I was accustomed to working late in order to balance class demands with my work at the *News-Letter*, for example. Most law firms make money based on the number of hours their attorneys bill clients, so there is an incentive to work long days. Of course, that kind of an environment may not be for everyone.

The realities of the profession are in line with what I expected while I was in law school. While law school provides a platform for learning legal principles, law school does not necessarily correlate with the actual practice of law. For example, most law school courses (especially first year courses) have just one multiple choice exam and your grade on that exam is your grade for the course. Litigation, though, doesn't necessarily revolve around a series of multiple choice questions or even around one event. A party could make and win a motion at the trial court level but then may have to brief and reargue the issue all over again in appellate proceedings.

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

Undergraduates should focus on taking courses in which they can get high grades. Undergraduates with higher grades are more likely to get into a law school that will enable them to take advantage of the broadest range of first-year attorney jobs. Undergraduates who plan to take the LSAT should take a few practice tests first in order to decide whether they need to take a prep course or get a tutor.

Mr. Steinke recommends the following websites (which may have paywalls), including: Law360.com, the New York Law Journal, www.nylj.com, and The Wall Street Journal, www.wsj.com.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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/regional_law_fair/index.cfm

Columbia Law School Info Session

Location: Krieger Laverty Room

Date: October 13, 2014

Time: 12pm to 1pm

Description: Dana Messinger, Associate Director of Admissions, will present an information session and answer questions.

Upcoming LSAT Administration

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

Date: December 6, 2014 / February 7, 2015 / June 8, 2015

Time: Registration begins at 8:30 am for the December & February exams -- consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

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

Ana L. Drososki, J.D., Associate Director, Pre-Law Advisor, Pre-Dental & Pre-Med Advisor

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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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