



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

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Vol. 8, No. 5

Friday, October 31, 2014

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Harvard Law School (HLS) will be hosting a series of Google Hangouts, where a member of their admissions team will lead participants through a session about HLS and the application process.

Each session includes time for Q&A. Participants will be able to submit questions in writing prior to the session or in the chat window during the presentation.

This year's series will cover a range of topics and will include sessions for prospective students who have taken time off and sessions specifically focused on the application process.

For more information and to register, please visit HLS' [Google+](#) page or click on one of the events below.

General Information Session

[Wednesday, October 29th 12:00-1:00pm](#)

[Monday, November 3rd 5:30-6:30pm](#)

Applying After Time Off

[Wednesday, November 5th 12:00-1:00pm](#)

[Thursday, November 13 5:30-6:30pm](#)

Application Requirements & Advice

[Monday, November 17th 12:00-1:00pm](#)

[Wednesday, November 19th 5:30-6:30pm](#)

Happy Halloween!!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

“Debt has dropped for graduates at 49 schools” *The National Jurist*. Web. 15 Oct. 2014.
<http://www.nationaljurist.com/content/debt-has-dropped-graduates-49-schools> -- *although the average debt for a law school graduate continues to rise, 49 law schools reported lower debt numbers from 2012 to 2013.*

Palazzolo, Joe. **“Number of LSAT Takers Continues to Slide”** *The Wall Street Journal’s Law Blog*. Web. 24 Oct. 2014. <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2014/10/24/number-of-lsat-takers-continues-to-slide/> -- *now in the fifth year of decline, “test takers are on pace to reach lows that we haven’t seen since the late 1990s.”*

Weiss, Debra Cassen. **“LegalZoom products will be sold at a discount through Sam’s Club”** *ABA Journal*. Web. 27 Oct. 2014.
http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/legalzoom_products_will_be_sold_at_a_discount_through_sams_club/ -- *LegalZoom and Sam’s Club have announced a partnership to develop multiple legal solutions for Sam’s Club members, including a suite of estate planning products.*

3. OPPORTUNITY: INTERNSHIP IN JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR’S CHAMBERS AT THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

*Justice Sotomayor is seeking two highly motivated, organized, and detail-oriented individuals to participate in a 3-month unpaid internship next Spring 2015, either January through March or April through June. Candidates should be qualified college juniors/seniors or recent college graduates with strong oral and written communication skills who are interested in learning the inner workings of the judicial branch. *Candidates need not have a legal background and should not have a graduate degree**

DESCRIPTION: Selected candidates will have an opportunity to work as an intern in the Chambers of the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. It is a 3-month internship during either January-March or April-June of 2013 that will involve working directly with the Justice and with her staff. While this internship is unpaid, the student may be eligible to receive academic credit, if their university offers this kind of program. The selected interns will be responsible for their own living arrangements and transportation to and from the Court.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A recent college graduate or college senior is preferred
- Legal training is not required
- Excellent organizational skills and the ability to handle multiple assignments under pressure in an efficient and timely manner
- Excellent keyboarding skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office programs
- Impeccable judgment and professionalism

- Ability to establish and maintain effective work relationships with others at all levels of the Court
- Ability to deal with the public effectively
- Must be assertive, self-motivated, and detail-oriented
- Must work well with others and have excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Aspirations to attend law school and/or a commitment to public service are preferred
- All candidates must have a driver's license

RESPONSIBILITIES (list is not exhaustive):

- Assisting Justice Sotomayor and Justice Sotomayor's Conference Secretary, Scheduler/Personal Assistant, Law Clerks, and Chambers' Aide, as needed
- Escorting the Justice's guests around the Court and Chambers, including national and international high level officials
- Assisting with basic secretarial duties, including filing, photocopying, answering the phone, and taking messages
- Prepare and distribute correspondence between Chambers and Court offices
- Drafting, editing and filing of correspondence
- Filing and cataloguing petitions and memos
- Run errands outside of the Courthouse (a driver's license is a must)
- Preparation of lunch and meals for the Justice

To apply for this position, please send the following materials to icmarden@supremecourt.gov:

1. Updated resume
2. Unofficial academic transcripts
3. Writing sample
4. Two letters of recommendation

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 7th (for January - March Session)
January 30th (for April - June Session)**

4. INTERVIEW: AMELIA COURTNEY HRITZ '09, CORNELL UNIVERSITY JD/PHD IN LAW & DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY CANDIDATE & CURRENT 1L

Amelia Courtney Hritz '09 is a dual degree candidate at Cornell University, pursuing a JD/PhD in Law and Developmental Psychology. She is currently a 1L at Cornell Law School, where she is a 1L Representative to the Women's Law Coalition and a Department Representative in the Graduate Students' Association for Multidisciplinary Legal Studies. Prior to matriculating to Cornell, Amelia received her MA in Forensic Psychology in February 2012 from CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice. From 2009 to 2011, Amelia was a full-time Paralegal at Schlam, Stone & Dolan LLP, in New York City.

Amelia graduated with general honors from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in 2009 with a BA and having double majored in Mathematics and in Psychology. While at JHU, she was Co-President of the Careers in Psychology Course Committee, through which she created a new class, "Careers in Psychology," featuring speakers with diverse professions in the field of psychology. She was also a Senior Class Representative, a Psychology Steering Committee member, a volunteer with the Tutorial Project, a JHU Admissions Representative, and a member of Alpha Phi Sorority.

1) Describe your typical day as a 1L at Cornell Law School.

On a typical day I have class from around 9-4 with some breaks that I use to do reading. Around once a week I attend a panel hosted by a student group. There are often really great guest speakers (and free food). Some of the topics have been drone strikes, the Hobby Lobby case, and animal rights. Other days I play intramural soccer after class. After that I usually study until I go to bed. I've tried to keep up with my research in psychology, but it seems impossible as a 1L. I've realized that it is best to completely focus on my classes and pick up everything else after the first year.

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?

My favorite class is Constitutional Law. It's fascinating to read legal arguments surrounding issues such as slavery and women's suffrage and realize how relevant they are to issues that are still going on today. It puts a lot into perspective. As a 1L, I haven't been able to choose any of my classes, but as a graduate student I was able to take two classes in the law school: Contemporary American Jury and Social Science and Law. I choose to take those classes because the professor was a social scientist and I really liked the way she applied empirical research to law.

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

I chose Cornell because of the emphasis on empirical legal studies. Ted Eisenberg, a former professor at Cornell, founded the Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, which is one of the only peer-edited journals with a focus on law. The faculty at Cornell have done really impressive research and it comes through in their teaching and reading assignments.

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 I was at JHU I took most of the law-related classes I could find including Psychology & Law; Law, Psychology & Public Policy; Business Law; and Human Rights Law in US Courts. I also became a TA for Psychology & Law and Business Law. I think that these classes were helpful to me when I applied to paralegal positions, because they showed that even though I was a math major, I had an interest in law. But most importantly, the two law and psychology classes I took inspired me to pursue both fields. I think this helped in my law school applications, because I had an interdisciplinary interest in law that was sort of unique.

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?

In between JHU and Cornell I worked full time as a paralegal in NYC. While I learned a lot from this experience, I also felt that I wasn't able to further my goals of studying psychology, so I decided to do a masters in Forensic Psychology at night. I really enjoyed this experience, because it allowed me to explore the different ways psychology can be applied to law. It also allowed me to figure out my strengths and weaknesses. Eventually I decided that I would prefer to study empirical psychology over clinical psychology, which shaped my applications for JD/PhD programs.

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?

As I expected, law school is a lot of work. There are a lot of long days of studying with very little sleep. But the support network is immense. All of the students are going through the same thing.

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 think it is really important to take time off in between college and law school. The time off allows you to figure out why you want to be a lawyer. It also allows you to take a step back from school and really value it. After working full-time and taking classes at night, coming to Cornell was such a dream. I remember thinking "this is great! All they want me to do is study!" I think if you can have that attitude it will make school much more enjoyable.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a JD/PhD joint degree candidate in Law & Developmental Psychology, Cornell Law School, or would otherwise like to contact Amelia Hritz, you may reach her at: ameliahritz@gmail.com.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming LSAT Administration

Location: Visit <http://www.lsac.org/jd/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. 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 Cruit, 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.

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