



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

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Friday, December 5, 2014

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

For those exploring summer 2015 opportunities, consider applying for a Community Impact Internship Program (CIIP) Internship thru the Center for Social Concern:

The Community Impact Internships Program (CIIP) is a competitive, paid summer internship program that pairs JHU undergraduate students with nonprofit organizations and government agencies to work on community-identified projects.

Participating interns attend an extensive orientation and work 35 hours a week for 8 weeks while participating in weekly reflection sessions with their fellow interns. Each participating student receives a salary of \$4000. The 2015 CIIP program dates are: June 2nd to August 1st, 2015.

The goal of this program is two-fold: to give JHU undergraduates an opportunity to be directly involved in a community in Baltimore City and to support the important work being done by nonprofits and government agencies. The CIIP is housed within the Center for Social Concern at the Johns Hopkins University. This program is made possible by generous anonymous gifts of \$2.25 million.

Additionally, CIIP interns can apply to return to the program to serve as a CIIP Peer Mentor. This is an opportunity to work in the community as an intern for 35 hours a week while working an additional 5 hours a week supporting other interns and serving as a resource for the students in each placement area. This program combines the components of being a CIIP intern with a community agency while giving the participant an opportunity to develop leadership skills and knowledge of Baltimore current affairs. CIIP Peer Mentors will receive a salary of \$5000.

For more information, including how to apply, visit: <http://www.csc.jhu.edu/ciip.shtml>. Please note that the deadline for this opportunity is January 5, 2015.

This will be the final Pre-Law e-Newsletter for the Fall 2014 semester. Best of luck with your finals and in completing this semester. Happy Holidays!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

"Closing the Law School Gender Gap." *Inside Higher Ed*. Web. 12 Nov. 2014

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2014/11/12/closing-law-school-gender-gap> -- an article in the Journal of Legal Education suggests "common professional school pedagogies, such as the Socratic and adversarial methods, may put women at a disadvantage when class sizes are big."

Cassens Weiss, Debra. **"Are 2016 law grads in luck? New stats say lawyer jobs will exceed graduates that year."** *ABA Journal*. Web. 19 Nov. 2014.

http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/are_2016_law_grads_in_luck_new_stats_say_lawyer_jobs_will_exceed_graduates/?utm_campaign=weekly_email&utm_source=maestro&job_id=141119AT&utm_medium=email -- Bureau of Labor Statistics has changed the way it calculates job openings in the legal profession, creating a rosy outlook for law grads in 2016.

Olson, Elizabeth. **"Law School Is Buyers' Market, With Top Students in Demand."** *The New York Times*. Web. 1 Dec. 2014. <http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2014/12/01/law-school-becomes-buyers-market-as-competition-for-best-students-increases/?smid=li-share&r=0> -- Law schools, facing declining enrollment, are trying to attract students by cutting or freezing tuition and increasing financial aid.

3. GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY: US TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP PROGRAM, AUSTRIA

Since 1962, the US Teaching Assistantship Program in Austria has provided US college and university graduates with opportunities to work at secondary schools throughout Austria as teaching assistants. US teaching assistants enhance the instruction of English as native speakers and are important resources for first-hand information about the United States and the "American way of life." The Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's affairs (BMBWF) finances this program, which is administered by the Austrian-American Educational Commission (Fulbright Commission). While the participants in this program contribute to the Fulbright goal of promoting mutual understanding, **this is not a Fulbright grant program.**

For more information about the program, including how to apply, visit <http://www.usta-austria.at/>. Only online applications will be accepted. **Please note that the application deadline for the program year 2015-16 is January 15, 2015.**

4. INTERVIEW: DYLAN J. BRENNAN, PERSONAL INJURY & TRIAL ATTORNEY, CELLINO & BARNES, P.C.



Dylan J. Brennan has been a Personal Injury & Trial Attorney for Cellino & Barnes, P.C. since 2002. Mr. Brennan represents clients in auto accidents, truck accidents, medical malpractice, construction accidents, work place accidents, labor law accidents, defective products, slip and fall accidents, dog bite accidents, and more.

Mr. Brennan is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and the New York State Trial

Lawyers Association. He was selected to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars List for 2013 and The National Trial Lawyers Top 100.

Mr. Brennan received his Bachelor of Arts from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo, where he double-majored in Philosophy and English. He received his Juris Doctor from SUNY Buffalo Law School. While in law school, Mr. Brennan participated in moot court and was a member of the trial team, where he competed in mock trials against other law school teams. With a cohort of his law school classmates, Mr. Brennan taught a research and writing class to prisoners, including those in the maximum security Attica Correctional Facility.

Dylan J. Brennan is a member of the New York State Bar and admitted to the Federal Courts of the Eastern District of New York, Southern District of New York, and the Western District of New York.

Describe a day in the life of a Personal Injury & Trial Attorney at Cellino & Barnes, P.C.

I generally practice civil law. I prosecute cases for injured parties. My cases involve car accidents, construction accidents, product liability, medical malpractice, and slip and falls. I work for a large plaintiff's firm, where we have approximately 60 attorneys, with offices from Los Angeles to Long Island. I handle cases from sign-up to verdict. Currently, I have approximately 80 cases in litigation. I handle cases big and small. For example, this month I resolved a case for \$6,000.00 and another for \$5.5 million. This means a complaint has been filed, and we are moving towards a trial. In addition to prosecuting cases, I manage 22 attorneys from our Manhattan office, Melville office and Garden City office. I am involved also in hiring new attorneys.

My most memorable day was when I received a verdict of just over \$1 million dollars in a case that a much more experienced and credentialed attorney had dropped because my client -- previously his -- would not accept a \$250,000 offer.

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

I was initially attracted to this type of work because I can represent individuals against big companies, mainly insurance companies. It is satisfying to beat corporations and to win cases for individuals, many of whom are in desperate need of help due to life altering injuries. This attraction still exists for me today.

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?

Downfalls to this area of the law include:

(1) My client's results are tied (with respect to time, at least) to slow government entities. We are at the mercy of the Court system (run by government officials), which determines when a case goes to trial. In NY-Metro Counties, this can take eight (8) plus years. A lot of pain and hardship occurs in 8 years, and there is little we can do but wait. That hurts.

(2) There are many times that I can recover only a limited amount of money for a client. For example, in a car accident, most defendants carry only \$25,000 in coverage. Without any assets, this is all I can

recover -- regardless of injury. So if my client is a brain damaged baby and there is only a \$25,000 policy, that is all we can recover. After fees and costs, this is about \$16,000. I have had this happen on a number of occasions.

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

My advice to an undergraduate is to perfect your writing and speaking skills, as these are most important as a lawyer. Analytical writing is the best. Most philosophy departments have classes that better prepare you for analytical writing than English classes. Join debate clubs. Speak in public as much as you can, wherever you can. If you want to pursue this body of law, develop your people skills so you can relate to clients. In my line of work, obtaining and keeping clients is most important. Clients want foremost a lawyer who they can talk to -- many times about things other than the law or the facts of their case. If they don't like you they won't trust you, and they will find another lawyer or not retain you. Practice getting what you want on the phone. Get a job selling products over the phone. Make the cashier at the grocery store smile when she/he sees you. Practice making people like you in your everyday life.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a Trial Attorney, personal injury law, or would otherwise like to contact Dylan J. Brennan, you may reach him at: dylan.brennan@cellinoandbarnes.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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The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:

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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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