



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

\*Best viewed in HTML\*

**Vol. 8, No. 8**

Friday, February 6, 2015

- ~~~~~
- 1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.**
  - 2. Legal Education & the Legal Industry in the Media**
  - 3. Opportunity: Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) Career Law Program Internship(s)**
  - 4. Interview: Diana Stern '12, UCLA School of Law 2L**
  - 5. Upcoming Pre-Law Student Meeting & Program Announcements**
- ~~~~~

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

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a fabulous winter holiday season and that the first weeks of the Spring 2015 semester have gone well.

In recent years, several universities have created undergraduate law reviews. Have you written something law related you think is publishable? If so, please note that the *Columbia Undergraduate Law Review* is accepting submissions at this time. See below for more information:

The *Columbia Undergraduate Law Review* (CULR), a journal of undergraduate legal scholarship based at Columbia University in the City of New York, is accepting submissions for its Spring 2015 issue. The deadline for submissions is **February 20th at 11:55pm**. In recognition of the various paths undergraduates may take to study law, *CULR* welcomes submission of research articles, senior theses, and essays embracing a wide range of topics and viewpoints related to the field of law. Undergraduate students in any major, track, or class year are encouraged to submit. Check out [www.columbia.edu/cu/culr](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/culr) to view past journals or to read *CULR*'s mission statement.

Submissions should be double-spaced in Microsoft Word .doc or .docx format, follow the Chicago style, and include endnotes as well as a Works Cited section. Although *CULR* will consider submissions of any length, the majority of published pieces range from 20 to 25 pages. Longer papers should be shortened to fit this page length recommendation before submission. In the document, please also include the following information:

1. Your name

2. Current email address and phone number
3. Undergraduate college/university
4. Year of graduation
5. Title
6. Indicate whether the paper is about: International Law, Domestic Law, Historical Law, or Other
7. 250-word abstract
8. Short explanation of when and why paper was initially written

Submit articles on *CULR*'s website under the "[Submissions](#)" tab.

Questions or concerns? Contact [culreboard@columbia.edu](mailto:culreboard@columbia.edu).

*Good luck to anyone taking the February 7th LSAT!*

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

Flaherty, Scott. "**Interns, Employers Prepare for Second Circuit Showdown.**" *The Litigation Daily*. Web. 26 Jan. 2015. [http://www.litigationdaily.com/id=1202716198173?rss=rss\\_tal\\_litdaily&slreturn=20150030154418](http://www.litigationdaily.com/id=1202716198173?rss=rss_tal_litdaily&slreturn=20150030154418) -- the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit is set to hear oral arguments in an unpaid intern case brought by disgruntled unpaid interns.

Rivard, Ry. "**Poaching Law Students.**" *Inside Higher Ed*. Web. 4 Feb. 2015. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/02/04/law-school-transfer-market-heats-getting-some-deans-hot-under-collar> -- notes the aggressive transfer market for law students, calling it "the contentious underbelly of legal education."

Stratford, Michael. "**Income-Based Repayment Costs Rising.**" *Inside Higher Ed*. Web. 6 Feb. 2015. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/02/06/obama-administration-pay-you-earn-expansion-will-cost-9-billion> -- the expanded Pay As You Earn program for federal student loan repayment will cost taxpayers \$9 billion according to information released by the Obama administration this week.

## 3. OPPORTUNITY: SPONSORS FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY (SEO) CAREER LAW PROGRAM INTERNSHIP(S)

Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) is a non-profit that provides educational and career programs to young people from underserved and underrepresented communities. SEO Career is the nation's premier summer internship program targeting talented, underrepresented college students of color. SEO connects students with paid ten-week internships in law.

SEO Career Law Program offers pre-law school students the opportunity to intern with some of the nation's most prestigious firms before they enter law school. The internship summer starts with orientation to introduce students to the world of corporate law and

ends with a week-long SEO Career Law Institute designed to prepare students for the rigors of law school. Interns get hands-on legal experience prior to law school and have the opportunity to meet associates, partners and hiring managers at the top firms, allowing them to start building their professional networks long before they start their careers.

Applicants must plan to attend law school in the Fall of 2015 and have at least a 3.0 GPA. The final deadline for summer 2015 internships is **March 1, 2015**.

To learn more, visit: <http://www.seocareer.org/paths-a-partners/law> & <http://www.seocareer.org/internship-overviews/corporate-law>

#### **4. INTERVIEW: DIANA STERN '12, UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW 2L**

Diana Stern is currently a 2L at UCLA School of Law. Diana received her Bachelor of Arts from Johns Hopkins University in May 2012. She graduated with General Honors, Departmental Honors in both Writing Seminars and French, and Phi Beta Kappa. While at JHU, Diana was a recipient of the Three Arts Club of Homeland Award, a member of Rho Lambda Sorority Leadership Recognition Society, a member of Omnicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, and a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society. Diana was an active member of Alpha Phi, where she held several leadership positions; a volunteer thru the then Incentive Mentoring Program; and a Percussionist at the Peabody Conservatory. Spring of her junior year, she studied abroad at La Sorbonne in Paris, France.

While an undergrad, Diana held several diverse employment positions, including as an intern at Howarth & Smith in Los Angeles, as an Executive Assistant at Fat Tie Inc., in Sherman Oaks, and as a Tutor for Capital Educators in Baltimore. She was also a Staff Writer for Bohemian Monthly Magazine and for Swarm Magazine, both based in Baltimore. During her one gap year, Diana was a Project Manager at Robert Gallagher Design and a Private Tutor for Strommen, Inc., both based in Los Angeles. Additionally, she was an Educator, Translator and Founder of a sole proprietorship in the Paris area of France which customized TEOFL and English courses for beginning to advanced students, translated technical writings, and transcribed footage for several documentaries.

At UCLA Law, Diana is Co-Chair of Law Women of UCLA and Assistant Managing Editor of the *UCLA Journal of Law and Technology*. She has been a Law Clerk for Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP, a Legal Affairs Intern (Road Crew) for Pandora, and a Legal Intern for the Western Region Office of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Diana Stern is fluent in French and a dual citizen of France and the United States.

#### **Questions**

**1) Describe your typical day as a law student at UCLA School of Law.**

My average weekday is comprised of class and my extra-curricular activities (and the occasional concert or stand-up comedy show).

I typically arrive on campus 20 minutes before class, then I stay for meetings and go to the UCLA gym before heading home to review my notes and reading. I do most of my reading for the following week over the weekend, and I refresh my knowledge by reading assignments a second time the night before or morning of class. The repetition helps not only if I am “cold called” but also for finals because I can better retain the material.

My extra-curricular commitments involve student organizations, community service, and legal work. I am Co-Chair of Law Women of UCLA, and I am on the board of the UCLA Journal of Law and Technology. In addition, I volunteer with the UCLA Law Education Rights Clinic at the Public Counsel to help students with disabilities who are not receiving the level of education to which they are legally entitled. I contribute to these activities on a weekly to monthly basis. Last semester, I also had a part-time externship with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), where I contributed to the agency’s consumer protection work at least 16 hours per week. Last semester was my busiest yet!

Podcasts are also part of my typical day. I listen to them during my commute to refresh my perspective. While many of my favorite podcasts are comedic, I recommend the Stanford University Center for Internet and Society podcast, “Hearsay Culture”, to anyone interested in learning more about law and technology.

**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?**

Overall, my favorite class thus far has been contracts because I learned how two parties can customize their arrangement around default rules in law. In turn, I also learned about the conditions under which default rules will override the parties’ agreement, or parts of it.

There are aspects of other classes that I greatly enjoyed as well. For example, in property, I was fascinated by the philosophical theories underpinning definitions of property and rules about who owns what. Copyright was fun because I started “issue spotting” (i.e. looking for potential grounds for litigation) in my daily life when I went to movies, concerts, or even when I saw advertisements.

Following my first year, I choose classes based on what is most interesting to me. For example, last semester I took a seminar called “Digital Wars”. The course examined current controversies in digital information law, including net neutrality, behavioral advertising, and antitrust matters. Before graduating, I will take two or three courses on subjects tested on the bar exam.

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

I chose UCLA because it offers rigorous courses taught by talented professors, and the student body is diligent, yet relaxed and collaborative. In addition, I was attracted to the school's renowned Entertainment, Media, and Intellectual Property program. Furthermore, I'm an LA native, and I knew I wanted to practice law in California. It is much easier to land jobs that are in the same state as one's law school. I've addressed some pros and cons in Question 6.

**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?**

My majors, community service, and sorority membership all contributed to my decision to attend law school and strengthened my application.

Firstly, the analytical and writing skills I gained as a Writing Seminars major contributed to my performance on the LSAT and ability to craft a personal essay. It may also be worth mentioning that the years of analyzing poetry at JHU have greatly helped me analyze legal statutes, which I have done in each one of my classes and legal jobs. Majoring in French and studying abroad in Paris allowed me to stand out as a candidate with international experience. I believe that experience will also help strengthen my application to study abroad in Geneva next fall through UCLA Law.

Secondly, I volunteered at the Incentive Mentoring Program, now known as Thread, while at Hopkins, and the experience increased my confidence in pursuing my own, unique goals rather than sticking to conventions. This in turn inspired me to go to law school because I felt, and still do feel, that being a lawyer provides one with the opportunity to create powerful and beneficial changes in society. I wrote my admission essay about an experience that I had in Thread.

Thirdly, as a member of Alpha Phi and Panhellenic President, I learned about collaborating and organizing a community to further justice when Greek Life leaders and I undertook pro-women and positive body image initiatives when I was a senior. I wrote about this experience on my law school application, and I believe the lessons in leadership and management I learned through Alpha Phi shone through to law schools. The experience also led to my becoming Co-Chair of Law Women of UCLA now.

**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 applied to law school while I was a senior at Hopkins and then decided to defer my admission for a year. I had the full freedom to try something different, with the security of knowing I had a plan lined up; inspired by my semester studying abroad in France at JHU, I decided to spend the year living in Paris. I am a dual French-American citizen, so I did not need to get a visa.

In Paris, I founded an English tutoring business, which included transcribing documentaries for film production companies. While I was doing it mostly for fun, the experience proved far more useful than I expected once I went to law school; it played a large role in demonstrating my adaptability, initiative, and determination to interviewers. It also allowed me to experience what it was like to manage and build my own client base.

During my first year, I worked part-time on a flexible schedule at a boutique entertainment law firm that I had worked for in the past. As an aside to any ambitious 1Ls, it is important to be mindful of the NALP guidelines about maximum weekly hours if one decides to work during the first year of school. Additionally, I attended a PLI (Practising Law Institute) event at UCLA Law about Bitcoin and began reading about digital currency. What I learned inspired me to reach out to the Bitcoin Foundation and volunteer for them because I think Bitcoin is awesome. With persistence, I became a legal researcher for the Global Policy Counsel for several months. I always have my eye out for interesting opportunities related to law, technology, and policy.

The summer after my 1L year, I wanted to work at a big firm to experience legal practice law in a larger corporate setting. I started contacting attorneys that I knew through friends, family, and alumni networks from high school, JHU, and UCLA Law. Asking nicely and writing thank you notes can go a long way!

While I didn't get an offer from a big law firm that year, I secured an interview for the following year. Importantly, I learned more about how attorneys think, what they look for in a candidate, and how they communicate. When I didn't get a position, I would carefully and respectfully ask why, which helped me improve each time.

I transitioned to seeking in-house opportunities through several techniques. Using the Internet, I researched companies that I liked or found interesting, such as cloud-based computing, solar, fashion, and entertainment companies. I also emailed professors that I came to know by attending office hours and asked for suggestions. In addition, I reached out to professionals that I met after they spoke at UCLA Law events organized by various student organizations.

I applied to around 30 jobs, knowing that if I did not achieve my goal of interning in-house, I could apply to be a Research Assistant to a law professor at UCLA. At the end of the day, I did succeed and was offered an amazing internship at Pandora Media, Inc. at their headquarters in Oakland, California. Note that I did not receive the job at Pandora until April, which is fairly late; do not give up hope on your dream job, especially if you have a back-up plan!

Following my internship at Pandora, I became interested in government regulation of technology companies. In addition, learning more about the inner-workings of the legal system during my 1L year furthered my interest in distributive justice. As a result, I pursued an externship (which essentially means internship during the school year) with local federal and state regulators by emailing and calling their offices. I externed at the

Western Region Office of the Federal Trade Commission, which was a fantastic experience. It felt great to contribute to the FTC's mission of protecting consumers.

Through UCLA Law's OCI (on-campus interviewing) program, which occurs the summer before 2L year, I was offered a 2015 summer associate position with a big law firm in Silicon Valley where I will be working with technology companies.

**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 am thrilled that law school has been intellectually challenging, as I expected. The intellectual component is different from my experience as an undergraduate. The intellectual work of law school is much more professionally oriented, and there is far less room for creativity because exam grading is very standardized. In papers, one's arguments come under even greater scrutiny than I anticipated; this is great for learning if one is open to criticism.

The job search was more work than I imagined for both my 1L and 2L years. During OCI, I think I had about 30 to 35 20-minute interviews and in a week, followed by multiple 4-hour interviews the following week. Maintaining one's energy is crucial since the process burns out many candidates, and the interviewers can see that. Remember, you are meeting with lawyers, so they notice everything! I managed to find enjoyment in the process by viewing it as an opportunity to learn from successful attorneys and imagining that each interview was the first one.

**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?**

Pursue exactly what you are interested in, and remember that it is okay if that changes. The admissions process and legal job market are challenging, heck, law school itself is very hard work! I cannot imagine maintaining and growing the drive with which I entered law school without my passion for pursuing a career in law and technology.

Many students work as hard as possible to get the top GPA in the class, and that has the great benefit of opening doors to the traditionally most sought-after jobs; however, working 18 hours a day (or whatever it may take) may not lead to the job that fits perfectly with your objectives and lifestyle.

My advice would be to first, brush off the pressure to jump on the bandwagon. Then, pursue your personal goals with organization, persistence, and discipline while setting boundaries that allow you to keep a balanced lifestyle. As I mentioned, I've made seeing live music and stand-up comedy part of my law school life! Of course, there are also times when you just want to do it all, and that can work wonderfully as long as there is a cut-off point.

**Contact Information**

If you would like to learn more about being a law student at UCLA Law or would otherwise like to contact Diana Stern, you may reach her at: [stern2016@law.ucla.edu](mailto:stern2016@law.ucla.edu).

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

### **The Insider's Scoop: JHU Alum/Current Law Student & Mock Law Class**

**Location:** TBD

**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015

**Time:** 5-6pm

**Description:** JHU alumnus Jules Sanzon '13 will discuss what it is like to be a law student -- a "day in the life." Additionally, there will be a mock law class taught by Dean Donald Tobin of UM Carey Law.

### **DC-Metro Area Law School Admissions Panel**

**Location:** TBD

**Date:** TBD

**Time:** TBD

**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 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.

~~~~~

## **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 Cruik, 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.

Ana L. Droskoski, Esq.  
Associate Director  
Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

Johns Hopkins University  
Garland Hall Suite 300  
3400 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Tel: 410.516.4140  
Fax: 410.516.4040  
Skype: preprof\_adrosco1  
email: [adrosco1@jhu.edu](mailto:adrosco1@jhu.edu)  
[web.jhu.edu/prepro](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro)