



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

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Vol. 8, No. 9

Friday, February 20, 2015

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

The latest Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) Action Report: Law School Summary is now available and can be found at the following link on our office website:

http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/your_jhu/2013.2014.law.school.summary.Report.pdf

Note that if there are 5 or less applicants from Hopkins for any category (Applicants / Admitted / Matriculated / Other Decision), an asterisk will be posted in lieu of the specific data. With applications down, there are many asterisks in this report. Refer to each law school's medians for more specific -- and likely helpful -- data.

Please also note that only applicants who have consented to release their data show in this report. Future applicants, please keep this in mind when it is time for you to release your data!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Olson, Elizabeth. "**Law Students Leave Torts Behind (for a Bit) and Tackle Accounting.**" *The New York Times' Dealbook*. 12 Feb. 2015.

<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2015/02/12/law-students-leave-torts-behind-for-a-bit-and-tackle-accounting/> -- law schools adding business boot camps and other business literacy efforts to their offerings for law students.

Hansen, Mark. "**ABA committee seeks more detailed data on law school attrition.**" *ABA Journal*. 17 Feb. 2015.

http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/aba_committee_seeks_more_detailed_data

[on law school attrition](#) -- ABA committee seeks LSAT scores and undergraduate grade-point averages of students from each class in the previous academic year that failed out, transferred to another school, or left for non-academic reasons.

"Law School Without the LSAT in Iowa, Buffalo." *The National Law Journal*. 19 Feb. 2015. <http://www.nationallawjournal.com/id=1202718376824/Law-School-Without-the-LSAT-in-Iowa-Buffalo> -- the University of Iowa College of Law and the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School will begin admitting high-performing undergraduates without LSAT scores, a practice allowed by new ABA standards.

3. OPPORTUNITY: THE PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ESSAY & VIDEO DOCUMENTARY CONTEST

For any of you that are residents of Pennsylvania, below is an interesting law-related essay contest sponsored by the The Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA):

The Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) is holding an annual essay and video documentary contest for Pennsylvania college students on the importance of state and local policies to the protection of civil and equal rights. The contest is open to all Pennsylvania residents who attend college. Eligible college students will submit an essay or short video documentary analyzing a Pennsylvania state/local law or lawyer/judge implicating civil rights. Examples of topics include: a biography or oral history of a trailblazing individual in the law such as a county's first African-American judge, or an examination of a law, such as a history of the PA ERA law or a current local housing ordinance disproportionately affecting people of color.

Top entrants will receive monetary prizes and will have their winning entries posted on the PBA website. They also will present their submissions at a future PBA meeting.

- First Place: \$1,250.00 each for the top essay entrant and the top video-documentary entrant
- Second Place: \$500.00 each for second place essay and video-documentary entries

In addition, the following in-kind prizes will be awarded:

- Copies of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania & United States Constitutions
- Copies of Professor David Kairys' book, "Philadelphia Freedom: Memoir of a Civil Rights Lawyer"
- Copies of the movie "Philadelphia" starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington
- Tickets to the National Museum of American Jewish History

Contest rules and format requirements can be found at:
www.pabar.org/public/committees/CIV01/essaycontest.asp

The deadline for essay and video submissions is March 15, 2015. Winners will be announced on April 15, 2015. Questions? Contact Ursula Marks at 800-932-0311, ext. 2206 or Ursula.Marks@pabar.org.

4. INTERVIEW: JULES SANZON '13, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW 2L

Jules Szanton is a second-year student at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law (UM Carey Law). Jules is a proud Blue Jay, having graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 2013 with a B.A. in Political Science. At Hopkins, Jules served on the board of the Jewish Students Association, received a Provost's Undergraduate Research Award for studying the targeted killing of American citizens, and served in the Johns Hopkins Army ROTC program.

After completing Army ROTC and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Jules received an educational delay from the Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps. As part of the educational delay program, Jules will complete law school before beginning his active-duty service, and will apply to serve in the JAG Corps upon graduation.

At Maryland Law, Jules is a Member-Elect on the Moot Court Board, Vice President of the Jewish Law Students Association, and a Teaching Fellow in the Academic Achievement Program. While in law school, he has worked as a Summer Legal Extern with the Army JAG Corps in Fort Benning, GA and as an Asper Judicial Intern in the chambers of Judge Douglas Nazarian on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. This spring, he will work as a student researcher at the University of Maryland Center for Health & Homeland Security. In his spare time, Jules enjoys watching football, running, and coaching the Mock Trial Team at Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community High School.

Questions

1) Describe your typical day as a 2L at UM Carey Law.

A typical day might begin at 8:30 in the morning in Annapolis, where I intern for a member of the House of Delegates. In the afternoon, I take classes and may have a meeting of one of my student organizations. In the evening, I study for my classes and work on my brief for the moot court competition.

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 law school course has been Constitutional Law I: Governance with Professor Robert Percival. The course focused on the roles of the state and federal governments, as well as the powers of the three branches of government. Professor Percival was able to sprinkle the course material with stories of his own time as a Supreme Court clerk, aide to a cabinet secretary, and attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund. By sharing firsthand stories about how the rules he taught applied to the real world, Professor Percival was able to capture and sustain his class' interest.

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

As a Hopkins undergraduate, I fell in love with Baltimore--a city that is large enough to be fun and interesting, but small enough to be quirky and affordable. When I saw that a law school in Baltimore had an LSAT and GPA range that I fell into, I decided to apply. I made me a decision to attend Maryland Law after the school offered me a scholarship that--when combined with a loan repayment program through the U.S. Army--made it possible for me to afford law school.

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?

I decided to attend law school as an ROTC cadet, when I decided that I wanted to serve in the Army JAG Corps. I applied for the Army's educational-delay law program (more on that below) and was accepted. This allows me to spend three years in law school before beginning my Army service. I believe that my interest in the JAG Corps differentiated my law school application from other applicants, and may have helped me to be accepted to some schools.

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 went straight from undergraduate to law school. As a Hopkins ROTC cadet, I applied for the Army's educational-delay law program. This means that I will serve on active-duty in the Army after law school, instead of going into the Army right after undergrad. During my 1L summer, I externed with the Army JAG Corps. This summer I will do another JAG internship, and also work as a legal researcher for a consulting firm. While my law school's career center is helpful in finding jobs and internships, I have personally found positions mostly through networking and pre-law school commitments and connections.

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?

Like many Hopkins students, I did significant research before attending law school. I found lawschooltransparency.com to be an invaluable resource in determining information about post-law school career outcomes. I also talked to many then-current law students, who accurately described the workload and challenge of law school.

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?

Law school is a good choice for you if you want to be a lawyer, you think you are likely to get a job as a lawyer, and you have a responsible way of paying for law school. To determine if you meet these qualifications, do your research.

A law degree is only necessary if you want to be a lawyer. Before going to law school, consider if this is something you want. Identify a young lawyer who has a job that you think you would find to be interesting, socially useful, and decently paying. Understand the differences between different types of legal jobs; there is a huge difference between a prosecutor, a lawyer with a solo practice, and a lawyer at a large firm. Many non-lawyers have romantic or inaccurate views of what lawyers actually do. Make sure you have a realistic view of what being a lawyer is actually like.

Understand that you may not get a job as a lawyer if you attend law school. Because the legal sector is shrinking, fewer law school graduates are able to find jobs that require JDs. According to lawschooltransparency.com, only 51.9% of 2013 Maryland Law grads found long-term, fulltime jobs that require JDs. Several months after graduation, 19.3% of the class was either unemployed or underemployed. The remainder of the class found long-term professional jobs that did not require JDs. Many students are justifiably wary of spending three years and tens of thousands of dollars for such uncertain outcomes. Before going to law school, consider the employment outcomes of the school you wish to attend. Also consider any special circumstances that may make you more or less likely to find the sort of job you want.

Finally, figure out how you are going to pay for law school. Law school is increasingly expensive. Between tuition, room and board, and lost income from not working for 3 years, the true cost of a law school education can easily top \$200,000. Before taking out loans to pay for law school, figure out how much your monthly payments will be once you graduate. Some law school graduates spend more on student loan payments than on rent! Determine what your post-law school income is likely to be, and make borrowing decisions accordingly. Consider working for a few years to save money for law school.

I chose to attend law school because I want to be a lawyer, think I can get a job as one, and found scholarships and a government program that can help me pay for law school. I have found law school to be challenging, interesting, and--oftentimes--enjoyable. If law school is a good choice for you as well, I wish you the best of luck!

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a law student at UM Carey Law or would otherwise like to contact Jules Sanzon, you may reach him at: jules.szanton@gmail.com.

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 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.

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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  
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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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