

# Pre-Law E-Newsletter

Vol 1, No. 1

Monday, September 17, 2007 - Sunday, September 23, 2007

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1. Message from the Pre-Law Advisor: Current Applicant Checklist
  2. Question of the Week: What is a Dean's Certification Form?
  3. Debunking the Myths & Rumors: What You Need to Know If You Are Considering Applying to Law School
  4. Volunteer Opportunity Highlight: Hopkins Refugee Youth Program
  5. Upcoming Pre-Law Meetings and Program Announcements
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## 1. MESSAGE FROM THE PRE-LAW ADVISOR

Greetings! For those freshmen that just arrived, I hope that you were able to attend our office presentation over orientation, if not, read on for a review in Debunking the Myths & Rumors. Remember, it is never too early to meet with a pre-law advisor, and I look forward to meeting with all of you in the upcoming months.

### Current Applicant Checklist

For those of you that are applying this fall, it is advisable to register and utilize to the fullest extent possible the online application services available through LSDAS. Here is a checklist of application items of note:

1. Letters of Recommendation: By now you should have registered for the Letters of Recommendation (LOR) Service through LSDAS, generated letters of recommendation forms to deliver to each of your recommenders, and asked all intended recommenders to write your letters. If your letters of recommendation are not yet on file with LSDAS, that is ok. Be sure to give your recommenders some time to complete them, as well as to follow up with them to ensure they are completed. If you have not yet asked your intended recommenders - get on it!
2. LSAT: If you did not take the test in June, the September LSAT is the latest test date that that will allow your application to be completed in the most timely, advisable fashion (i.e., by early November). If you completed the June test and are satisfied with your score - congratulations! If you are taking the test in September - keep turning those pages! Your LSAT score is very important, and you should be focusing on this element of your application at this time.
3. Personal Statement: By now you should at least have a topic in mind on which to write. Remember, I can review your final draft upon completion. Be sure to attend the Personal Statement Workshop on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 if you are still working on this item. See Upcoming Pre-Law Meetings and Program Announcements below for more details.
4. Transcripts: It is your responsibility to have an official copy of all required transcripts sent to LSAC directly from the registrar's office of each institution you attended and obtained university level credit. You must use LSAC's Transcript Request Forms for this purpose. If you register online, your Transcript Request Forms will be available only after you register for the LSDAS and enter your school information. Transcript Request Forms are also available in the LSAT & LSDAS Registration Packet for those who register by mail.

To download the transcript request forms, log on to your LSAC Online Services account, go to the My Docs tab, and select Forms.

5. Resume: You should update your resume, and submit it to LSDAS as part of your application. Generally, law schools view resumes as a quick, orderly snapshot of an applicant and do prefer their submission. Although employment industry standard length is one page, your resume for law school application purposes may be longer.

6. Dean's Certification Forms: You may have encountered this requirement by some law schools to which you are applying. Read Question of the Week below for details on how to complete this item.

If you have questions on any of the above, have additional questions regarding law school or a career in law generally, make an appointment with me to discuss how you can best prepare for a career in law. Best of luck for a great start to this academic year!

Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.

## **2. QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

What is a Dean's Certification Form?

Several law schools (25+) require Dean's Certification Forms to advise them of your disciplinary - academic and otherwise - status at Hopkins. You are responsible for obtaining the Dean's Certification forms from each individual law school to which you apply which requires same and for forwarding them here, to the Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising, Attn: Ana L. Droscoski, Esq. for completion.

Additionally, you will need to submit, if we do not already have one on file, a copy of your transcript and a completed Dean's Report form. The Dean's Report form is different from the Dean's Certification Form required by law schools. The Dean's Report form was developed by our office and can be found online at <http://www.jhu.edu/preprof/l-appchecklist.html>. Complete the top portion of the Dean's Report form and submit it to Dean Dorothy Sheppard. Dean Sheppard will complete the Dean's Report form and forward it to our office. The instructions for forwarding the Dean's Report form can be found within the form.

## **3. DEBUNKING THE MYTHS & RUMORS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL**

Common Pre-Law Myths & Rumors by Topic:

Course Selection

Myth #1: I have to take Business Law, Introduction to International Law, American Constitutional Law, etc., to show that I am interested in attending law school.

Take courses with law referenced in their title only if you are interested in them. Most law school are not necessarily impressed by law related courses taken at the undergraduate level, as they are distinct from those offered in law school. Focusing on law courses as an undergraduate may allow the breadth and depth of challenging course work otherwise available - and may result in a less enjoyable undergraduate experience. Generally, a broad liberal arts curriculum is the preferred preparation for law school.

Picking a Major

Myth #2: I have to major in Political Science, English, History, etc., in order to go to law school.

As with course selection, major in what interests you. Generally, the most popular majors for those continuing on to law school are: History, Political Science, English, and specifically at Hopkins, International Studies (IR). You may also want to keep in mind that your choice of major can impact base skills that will help you in law school. For example, majoring in a field such as history will require you read and write a lot - two important skills required in law school.

Study Abroad

Rumor #3: I can study abroad if I want to - wherever I want.

This rumor is true! Studying abroad is one of the greatest opportunities you can take advantage of while in college. There are many options: pre-law track programs, including parliamentary internships abroad; studying in a non-English speaking country where you have the chance to gain the marketable skill of fluency in another language, or studying somewhere that you have always wanted to live.

#### Legal Internships and Work Experience

Rumor #4: It is a good idea to intern/work in a legal setting before applying to law school.

This rumor is also true. Although not required to gain admission to the law school of your choice, it is important that your decision to become an attorney is an educated one. By working in a legal setting, you can best witness a day in the life of an attorney, to determine whether you would be happy doing the same as a career.

#### When to Meet with a Pre-Law Advisor

Myth #5: I do not need to meet with a pre-law advisor until I am actually applying to law school.

You should meet with a pre-law advisor early in your undergraduate career to set up your file and to ensure that you are doing everything to compile the strongest application package you can. Also, you should meet with a pre-law advisor for advice specific to your interests and ideas for your eventual career goals.

#### **4. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY HIGHLIGHT: HOPKINS REFUGEE YOUTH PROGRAM**

For those of you interested in international law, especially asylum and human rights issues on an international level, this volunteer opportunity may be of interest to you. Remember, starting on the ground like this can give you broad and important exposure to a field you are interested in pursuing at a higher level in the future - and can lead to an enriching experience and great connections!

The Refugee Youth Project is an after-school program run by Baltimore City Community College in conjunction with local refugee resettlement agencies, mainly the International Rescue Committee. Trained volunteer tutors provide refugees with academic tutoring and acculturation support for up to two hours a day, four days a week.

The Refugee Project Goals:

1. Provide a safe and nurturing environment for refugee youth to develop their academic skills and to interact with each other in a positive way.
2. Provide refugee youth a chance to interact with positive role models who can help the acculturation process by mentoring the youth and serving as positive role models.
3. Provide strong academic support to the refugees, especially in identified high needs areas such as reading and math to help them reach their future academic goals.

If you are interested in becoming involved, The Hopkins Refugee Youth Project (RYP) is having its first meeting Monday, Sept. 17th at 7 p.m., in Maryland Hall 310.

The info session will be about 20 minutes. However, if you are interested in the training program, the meeting will last until 9 p.m. Cannot make the meeting but are interested in the program? Email [rypjhu@gmail.com](mailto:rypjhu@gmail.com) and visit RYP's website at <http://www.rypbaltimore.org>.

#### **5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETING & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

16th Annual Law School Fair

Location: Glass Pavilion, Levering Union

Date: September 24, 2007

Time: 11:00am to 2:00pm

Mark your calendars! Law school representatives from around the country will be present, and there is no charge to attend. Learn more about law schools of interest - all in the same day and location!

Sponsored by the Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

Mock Admission Panel

Location: Sherwood Room, Levering Union

Date: September 24, 2007

Time: 2:30pm to 3:30pm

Admission panel discussion by the experts immediately following the Law Fair! The panel will consist of Law School Deans from Boston College Law School, Tulane University Law School, Fordham University School of Law and George Mason University School of Law.

Sponsored by the Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

Personal Statement Workshop

Presenter: Robert Condlin, Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law

Location: Maryland 110

Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Time: 5:15 to 6:15pm

General overview of the sleeper in the law school application process. Obtain suggestions and tips on how to draft your best personal statement.

Sponsored by the Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

LSAT Workshop

Presenter: TBD

Location: Maryland 110

Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Time: 5:15pm to 6:15pm

General overview and description of what is arguably the most influential portion of your law school application package - the LSAT.

Sponsored by the Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

Career Series Panel: Corporate Law

Presenters: TBD

Location: Maryland 110

Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Time: 5:15pm to 6:15pm

Moderated panel presentation by attorneys - and Hopkins alum! - in the field of Corporate Law.

Sponsored by the Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising & the Second Decade Society

LSAT Administration for 2007

Location: On campus, Hodson 110 - check with LSDAS for additional testing locations

Dates: Saturday, September 29, 2007

Saturday, December 1, 2007

Time: Registration begins at 8:30am - consult with LSDAS for all controlling details

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

Ana L. Droskoski, Esq., who advises Pre-Law students:

Pre-Law Walkins: Mondays 10:00am to 11:30am

Pre-Law Appts: Mondays/Thursdays 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Wednesdays 10:00am to 11:30am & 2pm to 3pm

David Verrier, Ph.D., Director, who advises Pre-Health & Pre-Law students:  
Walkins: Friday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Appts: Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Thursdays 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Melinda Maris, Ph.D., who advises Pre-Health students:  
Walkins: Mondays/Thursdays 10:30 am to 12:00 pm  
Appts: Mondays/Thursdays 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions and schedule appointments:

Lena Harding, Administrative Secretary, [lhardin7@jhu.edu](mailto:lhardin7@jhu.edu) 410-516-6743  
For students whose last name begins with A-H, contact Ms. Harding.

Carolyn Mae Krause, Administrative Coordinator, [ckrause@jhu.edu](mailto:ckrause@jhu.edu) 410-516-6744  
For students whose your last name begins with I-O, contact Mrs. Krause.

LaTonia Sanders, Administrative Coordinator, [ladytee@jhu.edu](mailto:ladytee@jhu.edu) 410-516-4140  
For students whose last name begins with P-Z, contact Mrs. Sanders.

Angie Decker, Office Manager and Staff Supervisor, [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. everyday or visit our website  
<http://www.jhu.edu/preprof> for additional information.

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