1. MESSAGE FROM THE ADVISOR

As you may already know, there was an article by Amir Efrati in the September 24, 2007 of the Wall Street Journal entitled ÒHard Case: Job Market Wanes for U.S. Lawyers.Ó The article is best summarized in the excerpt which follows:

For graduates of elite law schools, prospects have never been better. Big law firms this year boosted their starting salaries to as high as $160,000. But the majority of law-school graduates are suffering from a supply-and-demand imbalance that’s suppressing pay and job growth. The result: Graduates who don’t score at the top of their class are struggling to find well-paying jobs to make payments on law-school debts that can exceed $100,000. Some are taking temporary contract work, reviewing documents for as little as $20 an hour, without benefits. And many are blaming their law schools for failing to warn them about the dark side of the job market.

Consider this article an important reality check. Law school is not necessarily the golden ticket. For those of you who are unsure about what else to do upon graduation from Hopkins, take the article’s message to heart and use caution when considering your next step - especially with regard to applying and matriculating to law school.

The article can be viewed in its entirety for a few days via the link: WSJ.com - Hard Case: Job Market Wanes for U.S. Lawyers

Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.

BEST OF LUCK TO EVERYONE TAKING THE LSAT TOMORROW!

2. UPCOMING OFFICE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: JOB MARKET PROSPECTS FOR ATTORNEYS

With response to the Wall Street Journal article referenced above, Jose Bahamonde-Gonzalez, Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs and Student Services at UMD School of Law & Vice President of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP), will discuss the current job market for attorneys from a different perspective on October 10th from 5:15pm to 6:15pm. Be sure to attend to obtain more information on this important issue. Final, on-campus location details to follow.

3. STUDENT ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT: THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY MOCK TRIAL ASSOCIATION

The JHU Mock Trial Association (MTA) is an active member of the American Mock Trial Association. Each of the three teams at JHU competes against other schools in a simulated trial experience. Every team is given a set of witness statements and evidence for a civil or criminal case, and students act as attorneys and witnesses to put together a trial, preparing opening and closing statements and direct and cross examinations. Competitions are held twice per year: an invitational tournament in late November,
and a regional tournament in mid-February. Last year, JHU MTA's upperclassman team was honored to receive a bid to the National AMTA tournament as well.

Auditions for JHU's Mock Trial Association are held annually in September. Anyone with skills in public speaking, theater, or logical thinking is encouraged to try out; no experience is necessary.

For more information about JHU's MTA, please contact Molly Schindler at MSchindler@jhu.edu.

4. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY HIGHLIGHT: PARALEGAL - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

This is a great work opportunity for those interested in gaining experience in a legal setting prior to law school and for anyone interested in eventually working for the federal government - especially those interested in health/public health law. Once employed by the federal government, you will be at an advantage for eventual full-time employment/rehire, as well as to transition between the many federal government agencies.

Job Description: This is an ideal entry-level position for someone who wants to explore a career in the law and gain practical experience prior to law school. The Civil Division is the largest litigating component in the Department of Justice (DOJ), representing over 100 federal agencies in complex civil litigation. In simplest terms, DOJ is the "Government's Lawyer."

This specific position is within the Office of Vaccine Litigation within the Constitutional and Specialized Torts section of the Torts Branch. The successful candidate will be responsible for performing factual, legal, and medical literature research in assigned cases; analyzing and evaluating scientific and medical information, including medical records, and preparing draft memoranda; drafting pleadings, motions, and briefs; communicating with medical experts; organizing and writing synopses for use by attorneys; drafting correspondence; verifying citations and legal references on prepared legal documents; providing assistance in preparation for hearings, monitoring cases, and performing other duties as assigned. A two-year commitment is required.

Job Qualifications: Four-year college degree in any major required. Strong work ethic. Research and analytical ability. Computer literate. Excellent written and oral communication skills. Previous legal experience or scientific background a plus. U.S. CITIZENSHIP REQUIRED!

Salary: $37,640 (GS-7) with promotion potential. In addition to promotion potential (subject to satisfactory performance), the government offers annual pay adjustments.

Benefits: Generous vacation time and sick leave, retirement system, retirement savings plan with government matching contributions, group health and life insurance, transit subsidy program for employees who commute via public transportation, and more.

Location: Convenient downtown location in Washington, DC, walking distance to several metro stations, restaurants, and retail.

Internet Sites: Information about the Office of Vaccine Litigation can be found at http://www.usdoj.gov/civil/torts/const/vicp/about.htm.

Information about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program can be found at http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/

To learn more about DOJ, visit http://www.usdoj.gov/civil.

How to Apply: Email a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and unofficial transcript to Civil.Personnel@usdoj.gov. Put "Vaccine Paralegal" in subject line.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS
Harvard Law School Admissions Representative Visit: Information/Q & A Session
Presenter: Dean of Admissions Toby Stock
Location: Hodson 316
Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2007
Time: 7:00pm to 8:00pm
Come and meet Dean Stock of Harvard Law School and learn more about their programs.

Job Market Prospects for Attorneys
Presenter: Jose Bahamonde-Gonzalez
Location: TBD
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2007
Time: 5:15pm to 6:15pm
Jose Bahamonde-Gonzalez, Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs and Student Services at UMD School of Law & Vice President of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) will discuss the current job market for attorneys.

LSAT Workshop - CANCELLED
Location: Maryland 110
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2007
Time: 5:15pm to 6:15pm
An alternate program may be offered at this time, date, and location - stay tuned.

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. Droscoski, 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

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

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

The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions and schedule appointments:
Lena Harding, Administrative Secretary, 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 410-516-6744
For students whose last name begins with I-O, contact Mrs. Krause.

LaTonia Sanders, Administrative Coordinator, 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

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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