

Pre-Law E-Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 15

Monday, March 3, 2008 - Sunday, March 9, 2008

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1. MESSAGE FROM THE ADVISOR

I hope that everyone is having a great semester and that mid-terms go swimmingly.

A few items of note:

The new website (<http://web.jhu.edu/prepro>) continues to be updated on a regular basis. Be sure to check back regularly for new and more complete information.

Remember that there are many resources in our office library. In addition to holding brochures for nearly every law school in the country, there are books which give centralized and detailed information on every ABA accredited law school in the country, current law school publications, and, very soon, copies of official LSATs.

Be sure to take advantage of all that is available to you here at Hopkins!

Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.

2. PRACTICE AREA FOCUS: LITIGATION (www.wikipedia.org)

Litigation commences when a lawsuit or a civil action is brought before a court in which the party commencing the action, the plaintiff, seeks a legal remedy. One or more defendants are required to respond to the plaintiff's complaint. The conduct of a lawsuit is called litigation. Litigation is extremely time sensitive and procedurally intensive work.

A lawsuit may involve disputed issues between individuals, business entities or non-profit organizations. A lawsuit may also enable the government to be treated as if it were a private party in a civil case, as plaintiff or defendant regarding an injury, or may provide the government with a civil cause of action to enforce certain laws.

Ultimately, if the plaintiff is successful, judgment will be made in the plaintiff's favor, and a range of court orders may be issued to enforce a right, award damages, or impose an injunction to prevent an act or compel an act. Additionally, a declaratory judgment may be issued to prevent future legal disputes.

3. PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW: BRIAN K. ESSER, ESQ., LITIGATOR

Background & Bio

Brian K. Esser, Esq. is an associate in the litigation group of the New York office of Baker & Hostetler LLP. His practice focuses on complex and general civil litigation, and corporate investigations. Mr. Esser has worked on matters ranging from Foreign Corrupt Practices Act investigations to litigation related to private equity funds and representation of foreign sovereigns.

Prior to joining Baker & Hostetler LLP, Mr. Esser was an associate at the Washington, DC office of Arnold & Porter LLP, where he represented clients in complex civil RICO actions, including United States v. Philip Morris, as well as antitrust and general litigation matters.

In addition to his main practice, Mr. Esser maintains an active pro bono practice that encompasses litigation, appellate and legislative work in the areas of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and HIV status, reproductive rights and the death penalty. His pro bono clients have included NARAL Pro-Choice America and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Mr. Esser served as Arnold & Porter's "loaned associate" to the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia where he represented low-income tenants in matters before the DC Superior Court and in administrative hearings before the DC Housing Authority.

Questions

Describe a day in the life of a Litigator:

Often a white collar crime litigation practice isn't as glamorous as it may sound. The core of the practice is interviewing the employees and others involved to find out what happened and reviewing the company's documents, books and records. The interviews, while interesting, are probably only about 20% of my time on a matter. The remaining time involves reviewing records -- especially the company's accounting records -- to piece together money movements and the actions of the relevant individuals. This usually involves coordinating the junior attorneys who do the actual review, accountants who specialize in re-creating records, and consultants who provide the technical support. A lot of my time is spent on conference calls, meetings and coordinating all of the relevant people. Much of the rest is spent reviewing, digesting and summarizing the documents and interviews.

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

I like general litigation because one day you can represent an executive whose former employer is trying to prevent him from going to a competitor for fear he will be stealing trade secrets, and the next day you can be involved in a real estate development case. White collar crime is fun because the factual scenarios are more exciting. My first big investigation involved a US company's Korean subsidiary bribing Korean tax officials. I've also represented a person accused of defrauding the United States Export/Import Bank and a small company for violations of US export controls. As for the rewards, when the government comes knocking on your door, either by executing a search warrant or just requesting documents, it is very stressful regardless of whether you are a small business or a large corporation. In this practice, we really help people navigate a potentially explosive scenario.

What are some of the downsides of this area of law?

When you work in a large law firm there is a lot of hierarchy, and there are not always opportunities for young lawyers to go to court and attend meetings and depositions, much less take an active speaking role in them. Additionally, the billable hours expectations can be high - sometimes 50 hours a week or more depending on the law firm.

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

Pick a major that requires a lot of writing. The more experience you have with persuasive writing the better off you will be. Also, try to gain experience with speaking in public - it's not necessarily the same as speaking in court, but the skills are related. Being able to clearly express thought in writing or to a group of people is a core skill for any lawyer.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about litigation, specifically white collar crime or commercial litigation, Mr. Esser's pro bono work, or have additional questions, you may contact Mr. Esser directly via email at besser@bakerlaw.com or by phone at 212.589.4236. You may also visit his firm's website at www.bakerlaw.com, where you can find an overview of his firm, or visit http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/whitecollarcrime_blog/, which is a blog on white collar crime.

4. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunity to Participate in a Mock Trial at UMD School of Law

Location: University of Maryland School of Law

Ceremonial Moot Courtroom

500 W. Baltimore St.

Baltimore, MD 21201

Date: Monday, March 3, 2008

Time: 12:30 to 5:00pm

Description: Johns Hopkins University students interested in attending law school are invited to participate in a mock criminal trial at the University of Maryland School of Law. Students will have the opportunity to serve as jurors and participate in deliberations at the close of the trial. The trial is being conducted as part of an advocacy class for second and third year law students and will be overseen by local attorneys. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Breaking the Ice: Networking Reception - Nonprofits, Public Service, Government, & Law

Location: Glass Pavilion

Date: Monday, March 25, 2008

Time: 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Description: Second annual networking reception to educate undergraduates about opportunities in nonprofits, public service, government, and law. This is an opportunity for students thinking about careers in nonprofits, public service, government, or law to learn more about these fields, including the recruiting process, and connect with welcoming alumni.

LSAT Administration for 2008

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

Date: Monday, June 16, 2008

Time: Registration begins at 12:30pm - 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., Assistant Director, who advises Pre-Law students:**

Walkins: Mondays 10:00am to 11:30am

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 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](mailto:lhardin7@jhu.edu) 410-516-6743**

For students whose last name begins with A-G, 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 H-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://web.jhu.edu/prepro/> for additional information.