

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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 2, No. 3

Monday, October 13, 2008 – Sunday, October 19, 2008

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Current Applicants: Questions on JHU's procedure for completing Dean's Certification Forms/Letters for law schools requiring same?

Visit: http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/deans_forms.html

If you have additional questions on the process, please be sure to contact me.

To Everyone: To ensure that your pre-law file with our office is complete, please visit:

<http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/Pre-Law.Forms.WordDocs/forms.html>

When you have completed the required forms indicated in the above link, please email them to me at: adrosco1@jhu.edu

Have a great Fall Break!

2. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

If you are interested in pursuing a career in intellectual property, specifically patent, law, consider one of the programs offered at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office listed below:

Student Educational Employment Program

This program provides either temporary employment for a specified period under the Student Temporary Employment Program (formerly the Stay-in-School Program, STEP), or career-related employment under the Student Career Experience Program (formerly referred to as the Co-Op Program, SCEP). These positions are filled on an "as needed" basis.

Student Volunteer Program

Unpaid internships are available through this program, which allows students to gain valuable experience in their field of study. Volunteer positions may commence at any time, pending a signed student volunteer agreement between the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the student and the student's college or university.

Patent Experience Extern Program

Unpaid training opportunities are available from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for students who are in college and pursuing degrees in engineering, science or patent law. These opportunities may provide work experience related to their academic program and allow the students to explore career options and develop their personal and professional skills. Students will also be exposed to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office work environment, where they can learn about the Office mission and the responsibilities of various patent practices, including practical working knowledge of patent decision-making processes.

If you would like additional information, please contact the Office of Human Resources by:
phone: 800.642.5670
email: Recruitment@uspto.gov
or write to:
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop 171
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313
Attn: Student Employment

Website: <http://www.usptocareers.com/Pages/WhyWork/Students.aspx>

3. PRACTICE AREA FOCUS: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Intellectual property (IP) is a legal field that refers to copyrights, trademarks, patents, and related rights. Under intellectual property law, the holder of one of these abstract properties has certain exclusive rights to the creative work, commercial symbol, or invention by which it is covered. A copyright gives the owner the exclusive right to reproduce, distribute, perform, display, or license his work or derivatives of his or her work. Trademarks are generally distinctive symbols, pictures, or words that sellers affix to distinguish and identify the origin of their products. The owner of a trademark has the exclusive right to use it on the product it was intended to identify and often on related products. Patents grant an inventor the right to exclude others from producing or using the inventor's discovery or invention for a limited period of time. (See:<http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex/Copyright>;
<http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex/Trademark>; <http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex/Patent>)

4. PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW: THEODORE A. WOOD, PATENT PROSECUTION ATTORNEY

Theodore A. Wood, Esq., is a partner with Sterne Kessler Goldstein and Fox (SKGF) PLLC in Washington, DC. SKGF is an intellectual property law firm with about 140 attorneys, student associates, tech specialists, and patent agents.

Mr. Wood is a registered patent attorney and is a member of the firm's electronics group. He earned his J.D. from the University of Dayton. He has an M.S. degree in electrical engineering from Northrop University and a B.S. in electrical engineering from North Carolina A&T State University. Mr. Wood counsels clients in various areas of patent law including due diligence investigations and pre-litigation analysis. His work before the United States Patent and Trademark Office includes patent application preparation and prosecution, reissue, and reexamination involving several areas of technology including electronics, digital communications, computer graphics, and computer networks. Mr. Wood is an adjunct professor teaching Intellectual Property Law at Northern Virginia Community College and is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force Retired Reserves.

Mr. Wood's complete biography can be accessed via the following link:
<http://www.skgf.com/professionals.php?PeopleID=59>

Questions

Describe a day in the life of a Patent Prosecution Attorney:

I am typically in the office between 4:30 and 5:00 am. The office is quiet at that time of the morning, and there are no emails popping up, no phones ringing, no one walking in the halls, and no noise outside. It is easier to focus at that time of the morning and to begin the day on firm footing. I normally review and clear my docket and answer any unanswered emails from the previous day. I normally go the gym from about 6:30 am to 8:00 am each morning. By the time I return from the gym, other people have usually arrived for work.

Most of the work that I do is in the form of advising clients, assisting them in obtaining patents on their inventions and helping them exercise their rights once they are able to obtain patent protection. My work also includes advising clients that may have been accused by others of infringing on their patent rights.

So a big part of my job includes developing a strong technical understanding of my clients' intellectual property so that I can more accurately assist them in the areas I noted above.

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

I was an engineer in the Air Force for 14 years before attending law school. Being able to apply my technical background and skills to the practice of law was important. So patent law was a natural interest for me.

One of the rewards of this area of law is being in such a specialized field. Because it is so specialized, demand for patent attorneys has traditionally been very strong. Another reward is being on the cutting edge of technology. One more additional reward is being in the position to be involved and exposed to decisions related to our clients' business models.

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

Because you are so specialized, you tend to be more narrowly focused, careerwise, than most other attorneys. Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in pursuing this body of law?

Yes. Since undergrads that want to focus on patent law are likely in engineering school (you must meet specific, science and technical coursework requirements to sit for the patent bar), they should look for all the opportunities they can to build upon their engineering expertise. The more extensive their technical experience, the better their chances for finding a good job as a patent attorney post law school.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about patent law, or have additional questions for Mr. Wood, you may contact him directly via email at twood@skgf.com or by phone at 202.772.8520.

You may also visit <http://www.skgf.com/home.php>, where you can find an overview of Mr. Wood's firm, Sterne Kessler Goldstein Fox (SKGF).

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harvard Law School Info Session

Location: Maryland 110

Date: Monday, October 20, 2008

Time: 12:00p – 1:00p

Description: Philip Lee, Assistant Director of Admissions, will host an information session on Harvard Law School.

LSAT Administration for 2008/2009

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

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2008 & Saturday, February 7, 2009

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

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

Ana L. Droscoski, J.D., Assistant Director, who advises Pre-Law students:

Walk-ins: Monday/Thursday 10:00a - 11:30a

Appointments: Monday/Thursday 2:00p - 4:00p

Wednesday 10:00a - 11:30a & 2:00p - 3:00p

David Verrier, Ph.D., Director, who advises Pre-Health students:  
Walk-ins: Wednesday/Friday 10:00a - 12:00p

Kirsten Kirby, M.S.Ed., Assistant Director, who advises Pre-Health students:  
Walk-ins: Tuesday 10:00a - 12:00p & Wednesday 1:30p - 3:30p

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-G, contact Ms. Harding.

Carolyn Mae Krause, Administrative Coordinator, ckrause@jhu.edu 410-516-6744  
For students whose last name begins with H-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://web.jhu.edu/prepro/> for additional information.