

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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 2, No. 8

Monday, February 16, 2009 – Sunday, February 22, 2009

- ~~~~~
1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.
 2. I am a Freshman Interested in Applying to Law School: What Should I Be Doing?
 3. Internship Opportunity: SEC Summer Honors College Program
 4. JHU Alum/Law Student Interview: Syed A. Wasim (JHU '08/CLS '11)
 5. Upcoming Pre-Law Meetings and Program Announcements
- ~~~~~

1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

For those of you that took the February 7 LSAT, your scores will be released via email by March 2, 2009 and via first class mail by March 6, 2009.

For those that intend to take the June 8 LSAT, note that this is a popular test administration. As a result, be sure to register as early as possible to ensure your preferred testing site. The 2009-2010 LSAT administration dates are now available for registration online (<http://www.lsac.org/LSAT/lsat-registration-methods.asp>) or over the phone with an LSAC representative.

Finally, note that the most current (2007-2008) LSAC Action Report has been posted to our website. The LSAC Action Report provides JHU-specific applicant data (mean LSAT scores & mean GPA, etc.) for most all ABA-accredited law schools.

Your may access the Action Report at:
<http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/statistics.html>

2. I AM A FRESHMAN INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL: WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING?

As early as freshman year, you can take concerted steps to improve your chance of admission to the law school of your choice and of entering your preferred career in law. Below are some steps you can take to put your best college experience and, eventually, law school application forward.

- Start by taking classes you are interested in. Be sure to explore a variety of different majors and fields. Keep in mind that there is no pre-law, preferred, or required major to gain admission to law school.

- Consider joining the Pre-Law Society, or any organization(s) which addresses your particular interests. Remember that an extracurricular activity may be considered in the admission process if it is something you are passionate about, have committed a significant and longstanding amount of time to, and/or have obtained a leadership position in.

- Consider a summer opportunity in a legal setting, or in a field in which you think you may pursue in practice as an attorney. You do not have to be an attorney to gain knowledge in a potential field of practice. In fact, gaining experience from various perspectives can only make you a better attorney.

- Take advantage of programming events offered by this office. Notice of same will be provided via email if you are registered for the pre-law listserv and can be found listed on the office website. Attending office

programming events on the application/admissions process, in various practice areas, etc. can give you a leg up on various law school and careers-in-law related items.

- Make an appointment with Ana L. Droscoski, Esq. to address pre-conceived notions you may have about law school, the application process, and a career in law generally.

3. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: SEC SUMMER HONORS COLLEGE PROGRAM

Summer Honors College Program

The Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Summer Honors College Program introduces undergraduate students pursuing degrees in such areas as accounting, economics, finance, human resource management and information technology/information security, among others, to the regulation of the securities markets and the work of the Commission. Students have the opportunity to work for 10 weeks during the summer at the Commission's Washington, DC headquarters or in one of its 11 regional offices nationwide.

The 2009 Summer Honors College Program application is open until March 15, 2009.

To begin the Summer Honors College Program application, visit:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=FVSFjLhZepfrjqW_2fSfxTmQ_3d_3d

For information regarding Frequently Asked Questions, visit: <http://www.sec.gov/jobs/shcpfaq.htm>

4. JHU ALUM/LAW STUDENT INTERVIEW: SYED A. WASIM (JHU '08/CLS '11)

Syed Ahmer Wasim graduated Phi Beta Kappa, with general and departmental honors, from Johns Hopkins University in May 2008, earning a B.A. in Political Science, with and a minor in Economics. While an undergrad, Syed was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, earning a \$10,000 research grant to produce a documentary and written report on Pakistan's public education system. His other honors included making the Dean's List all eligible semesters, designation as a Bloomberg Trustee Scholar and Class of 1929 Scholar, as well as membership in the Golden Key International Honour Society.

Syed's experiences prior to matriculating to law school include various summer internships in politics, including with (then) New York State Senate Minority Leader David Paterson, U.S. House of Representatives Congressman Gary Ackerman, the Office of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Commission for Economic Opportunity, and U.S. Senate Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Additionally, Syed interned with MTV Networks, Business and Legal Affairs – Music & Media Licensing and participated in the SEO Corporate Law Program as a Summer Associate with Proskauer Rose, LLP.

Syed A. Wasim is currently a first year (1L) at Columbia University School of Law.

Describe a typical day as a Columbia Law School (CLS) 1L. What has been your favorite class to date, and why?

Daily life at Columbia is not much different than at Hopkins. Classes are usually spread out three days a week, and you usually have one day off and one day where there is a light schedule. The main difference is the preparation that you have to do in advance of each class. Unlike undergraduate, where you can get by a week without doing the readings, in law school you have to be well-prepared before each class, as almost all Professors use the Socratic Method. Thus, the toughest thing about law school is to keep up to pace with the work, while also preparing your outlines and notes for the final exam. Since there are no midterms or any other means of evaluation during the semester, there is a temptation to relax since there is no immediate work due. That would be a big mistake, as you won't be able to study for each exam in two days.

My favorite class so far has been Civil Procedure. I enjoyed learning about the process by which civil litigation is resolved, with actual trial being a rare occurrence. It was very interesting to see the various

ways in which attorneys on both sides strategize in the pre-trial process to ensure an outcome most favorable to them.

What types of undergraduate opportunities did you pursue that led to your decision to apply to law school? Were there any experiences that you thought were particularly helpful in strengthening your application to law school?

As an undergraduate, I did most of my career exploring during the summers, as I completed multiple government and non-government internships. Through these internships, I got a sense that a law degree would be something most suitable to my goals, as I wanted career flexibility. There are so many things you can do with a law degree – politics, corporate law, public interest, international law – that I felt it was the right choice for me. Although you have to make a decision at some point about which specific direction you want to take your legal career, there is always room for flexibility. But you have to have a sense that you want to work within the field of law, as it isn't a good degree to pursue right away as a default option if you don't know what else to do.

In terms of my application to law school, I think my biggest advantage was the wide range of internships I completed, as well as my taking part in the Woodrow Wilson Research Fellowship at Hopkins. I think law schools immensely value someone who has engaged in undergraduate research. Besides, I think my research (on the education system in Pakistan) gave me something strong to write about in my application and to help me distinguish myself from other applicants. Try to do one thing throughout your time at Hopkins that is something unique and will help you shine compared to the other applicants.

What made you choose Columbia Law School, and has it met your expectations so far? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school, particularly, CLS?

Location, strength of program, and reputation were the key factors for me in picking CLS. I think there is no place like NYC for a law student, as there are so many things you can do, both professionally and in terms of enjoying yourself away from the stresses of law school. The Professors are also really great at Columbia, as are the students. Sure, there are some students who are the typical "gunners," but most students are very friendly and outgoing.

Employment opportunities with a Columbia degree are also fabulous. If you want to work at a firm, you are basically guaranteed a job (even in this economy), and Columbia's reputation is also very helpful if you are searching for government employment, which is a little harder to get.

In terms of the cons of the law school, CLS is very corporate-law centered. If you are sure you want to work in government or public interest, there may be better opportunities at the other top schools. But considering how well-regarded Columbia is in the legal profession, I don't think you are at any disadvantage, as CLS's name will be more than enough to get you a job of your choice.

Do you have an idea of what you may pursue during your summers and/or the next 2 school years?

This summer has been a very tough job market for 1Ls, as law firms are not hiring except for their usual 2L class. Thus, public interest and government is what most students are looking into. As for me, I know I want to work at a firm next summer, so this summer I am trying to obtain a different type of experience – perhaps government.

Also, were there any websites, blogs that you followed when applying to law school, or additional information you feel may be relevant and helpful – e.g., commercial outlines for law school courses? I strongly recommend lawschooldiscussion.org as a place to get a general sense of the application process, and to go through the process with fellow applicants. It was very helpful to me during my cycle. Also, Ivey's Guide to Law School Admissions is an extremely useful, one-stop guide to the process. For LSAT prep, I would strongly recommend Powerscore's Logic Games and Logical Reasoning Bibles.

In terms of commercial outlines, I recommend getting the Legalines companion to the specific textbook you are assigned for each class, and then to get a general commercial outline for the subject – I recommend Emmauel's.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about Columbia Law School, or have additional questions for Syed Wasim, you may contact him directly via email at swasim2@gmail.com or by phone at 917.535.4229.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alumni Weekend Lecture by Arthur Eisenberg (JHU '64)

Location: TBD
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2009
Time: TBD

Mock Admission Panel: DC Area Law Schools

Location: TBD
Date: April 2009
Time: TBD

The Insider's Guide to Law School: JHU Alumni Panel

Location: TBD
Date: March/April 2009
Time: TBD

Upcoming LSAT Administration for 2009

Location: On campus, Hodson 110 or Remsen 001 - check with LSDAS for additional testing locations
Date: Monday, June 8, 2009
Time: Registration begins at 12:30p - consult with LSDAS for all controlling details

~~~~~  
**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 10:30am - 12:00p & Thursday 10am-12p

The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:  
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.

