

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

**\*Best viewed in HTML\***

**Vol. 2, No. 9**

**Monday, March 2, 2009 – Sunday, March 8, 2009**

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## **1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.**

Please be reminded that appointments are now scheduled online through the following link:

[https://www.securedata-](https://www.securedata-trans10.com/ap/johnshopkinsuniversityofficeofpreprofessionalprogramsadvising/index.php?page=10)

[trans10.com/ap/johnshopkinsuniversityofficeofpreprofessionalprogramsadvising/index.php?page=10](https://www.securedata-trans10.com/ap/johnshopkinsuniversityofficeofpreprofessionalprogramsadvising/index.php?page=10)

If your schedule conflicts with all appointment time slots, remember I have walk-in hours on Monday and Thursday, from 10:00am to 11:30am.

If you have not submitted via email a completed “Law Professions Questionnaire” (<http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/Pre-Law.Forms.WordDocs/forms.html>), please remember to do so. We need this form to database your information and have a record of your interest in applying to law school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me!

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

- Consider participating in the Aitchison Public Service Fellowship in Government Program. ([http://web.jhu.edu/polysci/aitchison\\_fellowship.html%20](http://web.jhu.edu/polysci/aitchison_fellowship.html%20))

- If you did not do so freshmen year, consider a summer opportunity in a legal setting, or in a field in which you think you may pursue in practice as an attorney. Working in a legal setting will provide greater exposure to the profession, allow you to witness a “day in the life” of an attorney – and give you a better idea of whether or not it is for you.

- Consider Studying Abroad your Junior or Senior year. Planning for this experience should begin this year. Meet with the Director of International Programs to ensure that all required procedure is met. If you are interested in pre-law specific study abroad programs, meet with the Pre-Law Advisor to receive recommendations and a copy of Pre-Law Focused Study Abroad Programs (also accessible online at: [http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/study\\_abroad.html](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/study_abroad.html)).

- Consider pursuing an internship during the school year in a field that you are interested. Experience in a work setting can be a more multi-dimensional experience than a class setting, bolster your resume, and render you more marketable for future positions.

- Attend programming events. Event notice will be provided via the office’s pre-law listserv, if you self-subscribed, and can be found listed on the office’s website.

### **3. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: SOPHOMORE SUMMER POLICY INSTITUTE, INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWS PROGRAM**

Students accepted into The United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation's, Institute for International Public Policy (IIPP) Fellowship Program begin their journey with the seven-week Sophomore Summer Policy Institute (SSPI), hosted by Spelman College. The SSPI introduces Fellows to the basics of international policy development, foreign affairs, cultural competence, careers in these fields, and options for graduate study. To assist Fellows in putting what they learn at the SSPI into context, they participate in study missions to Washington, DC and New York, NY through briefings at the Department of Education, the Department of State, and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), as well as with such organizations as the Council on Foreign Relations, the United Nations and the World Bank.

The SSPI program runs from early June through the end of July.

Eligibility requirements from undergraduate sophomores include the following:

- Enrolled full-time at an accredited four-year baccalaureate-granting institution
- U.S. Citizens or legal residents (documentary support required)
- Minimum 3.2 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale)
- Excellent critical analysis and leadership skills
- Strong demonstrated interest in international affairs, public policy and language training
- Are an underrepresented minority (African American, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander)
- Plan to seek admission to a two-year master's degree program in international affairs

Deadline is March 16, 2009

For more information, and to apply, visit:

<http://www.uncfsp.org/spknowledge/default.aspx?page=program.view&areaid=2&type=APGL&typeid=iipp&action=apply&guide=1>

### **4. PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW: VAISHALI UDUPA, ESQ., PATENT LITIGATOR**

Vaishali Udupa, Esq. is an Associate and Patent Litigator at Jones Day in Washington, D.C. Ms. Udupa practices in the area of intellectual property (IP) law, with primary emphasis on IP litigation. Ms. Udupa has been involved with patent prosecution matters including utility and design applications in many different product fields, such as medical equipment, pens, luggage, office products, golf equipment, bicycles, and cosmetic applicators, among others. She also has significant experience in litigation matters involving patent infringement and defense in cases concerning consumer products, bar code scanners, and wireless communications.

Ms. Udupa also gained technical experience prior to her law career when she worked as a project engineer for a mechanical contracting firm in Alexandria, Virginia.

Ms. Udupa is admitted in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO).

Ms. Udupa received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia, and her J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law.

Questions

Describe a day in the life of a Patent Litigator:

It is hard to describe a typical day, because you can never predict what is going to happen. Last week, things were slow. I took long lunches, slept in, and left work early to spend quality time with my husband and son. This week, on the other hand, has been completely the opposite. I have been working late. Last night I stayed up until 2AM, just to get up at 5 in the morning, so that I could get a project done for a partner by 9AM. I had to review a brief for an appeal.

The types of tasks I do involve reviewing our clients' patents to see if competitor products infringe those patents. These products have included Amazon's website, LCD TV's, digital cameras and bar code readers. I also draft court documents, take depositions, meet with inventors to learn about the inventions, etc.

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

I have an undergraduate degree in civil engineering. I was very dissatisfied when I worked as an engineer for a mechanical contracting firm. I knew I wanted further education, but I was sure I didn't want to get another degree in engineering. I had always loved debate, so I decided to get a J.D. Patent law was the perfect fit for me, because it enabled me to use my technical background and my advocacy skills.

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

Especially the area of patent law, working in a law firm is not like what you see on TV (i.e., Ally McBeal or Boston Legal). Litigation in general has its ups and downs. Sometimes you are swamped with work, while other times you are twiddling your thumbs. Prepping for trial is a long and arduous process. Trial itself can be strenuous. The key to survival for me has been making the best of my down times and leaving work early to spend time with family and friends. Time management is also critical.

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

Usually patent attorneys need to have a technical background. In order to prosecute patents in front of the PTO, you must take the patent bar. To sit for the patent bar you have to have a science degree or engineering degree. Ideally, firms love electrical engineers or computer science engineers. Firms also love individuals who have a masters or a Ph.D. (especially in the area of biotechnology).

If you have the right background, there are some firms that will pay for your law school tuition in full in addition to paying law firms salaries up to six figures. You will enroll into law school part time and take evening classes.

#### Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about patent litigation, or have additional questions for Ms. Udupa, you may contact her directly via email at [vudupa@jonesday.com](mailto:vudupa@jonesday.com).

## 5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Alumni Weekend Lecture by Arthur Eisenberg (JHU '64)**

Location: Hodson 210

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2009

Time: TBD

### **Mock Admission Panel: DC Area Law Schools**

Location: Shaffer 3

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Time: 5:30p to 6:30p

Description: Admissions representatives from American University Washington College of Law, University of Maryland School of Law, George Washington University Law School, and Georgetown University Law Center will discuss the admissions process, their respective law school, and answer questions.

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

Location: Shaffer 3

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Time: 5:30p to 6:30p

Description: JHU alumnae Maria Cirincione (JHU '06/International Studies), currently a 2L at University of Maryland School of Law, and Andrea Dodrill (JHU '08/English & History of Art), currently a 1L at University of Baltimore School of Law, will discuss their paths to and current experiences in law school.

**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

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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 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.

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