

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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 2, No. 11

Monday, March 30, 2009 – Sunday, April 5, 2009

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1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.
 2. Employment Opportunity: Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, Legal Assistant Program
 3. New LSAC.org Functions to Debut in April
 4. Practitioner Interview: Michelle A. Zamarin, Esq., Assistant United States Attorney
 5. Upcoming Pre-Law Meetings and Program Announcements
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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful - and restful - Spring Break.

LSAC.org is overhauling their website, specifically the secure, application portion of the site. Read below for more information, and stay tuned for its launch in late April.

If you are interested in criminal law, specifically at the federal level, be sure to read the practitioner interview with Michelle A. Zamarin, Esq., who is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in D.C.

For those of you set to apply this upcoming Fall, think about from whom you will be requesting letters of recommendation. Be sure to request your letters of recommendation prior to the completion of Spring term. This provides time for the recommenders to write their letters over the summer.

2. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE LLP, LEGAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM

For those of you interested in taking time off before law school, two year legal assistant and paralegal programs at large law firms are an excellent way to learn about the legal profession. Cravath Swaine is one of many large firms that provide such opportunities:

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP's Legal Assistant Program includes positions in their litigation and corporate law departments. Legal assistants provide critical support to their respective legal teams, working directly with partners and associates, where they gain practical experience and develop organizational and professional skills. Both litigation legal assistants and corporate legal assistants may be assigned to a specific specialty group or team within a practice area. The Legal Assistants Program lasts for two years.

To apply for a litigation or corporate legal assistant position, send your resume and cover letter to

Rachelle A. Granada
Human Resources Recruiter
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
Worldwide Plaza
825 Eighth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10019-7475
staffrecruit@cravath.com

To find additional law firms that have legal assistant/paralegal programs, visit our website at the following link:
http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/legal_intern_fellow/private.html

3. NEW LSAC.org FUNCTIONS TO DEBUT IN APRIL

The comprehensive redesign of the interactive, secure part of LSAC.org is set to debut the weekend of April 25, 2009.

The goal of the redesign is ease of use for potential applicants, as they use the site for the entire law school application process, from LSAC registration to submitting applications.

With the redesign, candidates will purchase law school reports specifically for the schools to which they apply. This eliminates the possibility of submitting a law school application without having purchased enough law school reports.

Additionally, there will be no more “general” letters of recommendation. These changes are being implemented as a result of extensive research by LSAC into how potential applicants think about the application process compared to how they were using or could use the site to proceed through the process.

The new site will allow applicants to customize their “dashboard” so that you can easily access the information that is most relevant to where they are in the admission process.

(LSAC Report: January 2009)

4. PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW: MICHELLE A. ZAMARIN, ESQ., ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Michelle A. Zamarin, Esq. has been an Assistant United States Attorney with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia since 2003. Currently, Ms. Zamarin practices in the Sex Offense Unit and is the D.C. Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator. Ms. Zamarin has also served in the appellate, the general felony/guns and drugs, and the felony domestic violence divisions of the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Ms. Zamarin graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in 1995, with a double major in government and French, and obtained her Juris Doctor degree, cum laude, from Boston University School of Law in 1998.

Following law school, Ms. Zamarin joined the law firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed, L.L.P. in New York, N.Y., as a litigation associate. In 1999, she served as a judicial law clerk to Chief Judge Boyce F. Martin, Jr., United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. From 2000 until 2003, she was a litigation associate with the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, L.L.P. in Washington, D.C.

Questions

Describe a day in the life of an Assistant U.S. Attorney:

Attorneys in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for D.C., unlike other U.S. Attorney’s Offices, practice both in the local court and the Federal District Court. When you work for commercial law firms you rarely see the inside of a courtroom. As soon as I joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office, I was in the courtroom every day. A typical day varies depending on where a prosecutor is assigned. Working in assignments such as general guns and drugs or on a misdemeanor calendar can feel like practicing medical triage. The number of cases is so overwhelming that often one prosecutor will prepare a case for trial while another person actually conducts the trial. When I practiced in the misdemeanor section, I often saw a case file for the first time on the day the trial occurred.

This high-energy, fast-paced environment can be stressful but exhilarating at the same time. Prosecutors who are more senior, such as those who prosecute rapes, homicides or other violent crimes, have more

time to investigate and prepare their cases. Most cases are resolved without going to trial. Thus, a typical day involves investigating cases through interviewing witnesses or visiting crimes scenes. In addition, senior Assistant U.S. Attorneys spend less time in trial but still go to court on a regular basis for detention hearings, pleas, sentencings or other types of hearings.

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

I always knew that I wanted to work in public service. As a sex offense prosecutor, I work directly with victims of crimes. This is the most rewarding part of the job, because I believe that I am truly able to help people. I am lucky to work in a job where I am challenged intellectually, surrounded by interesting people, and can make a difference.

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

The reality of practicing criminal law differs greatly from what is portrayed in television and the movies. "CSI" type television shows inaccurately depict the importance and availability of scientific evidence. This has caused juries to have unrealistic expectations about the evidence available in criminal cases and makes the prosecution of cases more difficult where scientific evidence is absent or irrelevant. In addition, television gives the impression that prosecutors and law enforcement officers only have one case, where the reality is that everyone must balance large caseloads.

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

Prosecutors work with people during what is often the worst time in their lives. It is important to be able to gain an understanding of what victims and their family and friends endure when they are exposed to the criminal justice system. There are many non-government organizations that advocate on behalf of victims and serve the community. Volunteering with these organizations provides a good look at the personal effects of the criminal justice system. The U.S. Attorney's Offices and state prosecutor offices have volunteer interns from law school as well as college/undergraduate universities. Of course, anyone can go to a courthouse and watch general criminal court proceedings and trials to gain a better understanding of what it is like to work in criminal law.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about the U.S. Attorney's Office in D.C., or have additional questions for Ms. Zamarin, you may contact her directly via email at michelle.zamarin@usdoj.gov.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Alumni Weekend Lecture by Arthur Eisenberg (JHU '64)

Location: Hodson 210

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2009

Time: app. 5:00p to 6:00p

Description: Arthur Eisenberg (JHU '64), Legal Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, will speak about the U.S. Supreme Court's recent gun control decision and interpretation of the Second Amendment.

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, Georgetown University Law Center will discuss the admissions process, their respective law school, and answer questions.

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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