

The Pre-Law e-Newsletter from Pre-Professional Programs & Advising
Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 3, No. 2
Friday, September 25, 2009 – Thursday, October 8, 2009

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

For those taking the LSAT tomorrow – best of luck! Stay calm, and trust that all of your preparatory work will pay off.

For those of you that do not already know, we have moved JHU's Law Fair to a bi-annual schedule. This is the first off year. Please note that there are other (free) resources in the area to meet with law school representatives and learn more about specific law schools of interest.

The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) hosts Law School Recruitment Forums in large cities including NYC (Friday, October 9) and Boston (Monday, October 12). LSAC's forums are comprehensive, with most every law school in the country represented. For more information, and to register, visit:

<http://www.lsac.org/Choosing/law-school-recruitment-forums.asp>

Alternatively, the 2009 Philadelphia Law School Fair will be held on Wednesday, October 14, from 2:00 – 6:00pm. The location of this fair is at Amtrak's 30th Street Station, in the North Waiting Room. Per Grant Keener, the Law Fair Organizer/Prelaw Advisor at Drexel University, law schools in attendance will include Duke, Emory, Georgetown, Northwestern, GW, Texas, Penn, Vanderbilt, BC, BU, and Fordham, as well as most national and regional law schools located in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Representatives will be on hand to distribute information and speak with prospective students. No pre-registration is required.

2. Legal Job Projections: The Federal Government

Though the legal market has taken a hit with the economic downturn, a recent study indicates one employer projected to realize a hiring trend and boom: the federal government. Despite mitigating factors which may impact projected hire estimates, this market seems set to grow in the next few years.

A recent *The Washington Post* article entitled "Federal Government Needs Massive Hiring Binge, Study Finds" by Steve Vogel discusses the topic:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/02/AR2009090203571_pf.html

Data detailing legal job openings projected in the federal government can be found via the following link:

<http://data.wherethejobsare.org/wtja/field/1489>

Note that JHU's Career Center is hosting a Fall Career Fair from 11am to 3pm, on Thursday, October 1st, in the Ralph O'Connor Recreation Center. In conjunction, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is hosting its Federal Career Day. About 50 of the 110+ employers at the Fall Career Fair will be federal agencies. Additionally, at 2:30pm, the OPM will conduct a 45 minute workshop in the Rec Center Classroom, entitled "How to Find and Apply for Federal Jobs." Try to stop by!

Visit the following link for more information on the Fall Career Fair: <http://www.jhu.edu/careers/students/calendar/calendar.html>

3. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: LEGAL ADMIN, BLACKBOARD, WASHINGTON, DC

Blackboard's mission is to help education leaders enhance every aspect of the teaching and learning experience. Blackboard's reach covers traditional, market-leading e-Learning solutions, in addition to mass notification, campus security, and commerce. We are dedicated to fostering a culture of lifelong education and growth. Across courses, campuses, organizations, companies, government agencies, and communities, Blackboard is powering the educational age around the globe.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Blackboard's Legal team works with internal clients to provide legal advice, conclude business agreements and handle disputes. Team members work in a fast-paced, collegial environment and are at the center of the company's activities.

The Legal Admin will play an integral role in the success of the group. Specifically s/he will be responsible for:

- Establishing and maintaining accurate files and records
- Accurately typing a variety of legal correspondence including letters, e mails and memoranda
- Making entries into contracts and documents databases
- Regularly handling highly confidential matters with discretion and judgment
- Supporting other Legal administrative staff as needed/directed

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIRED SKILLS:

- Strong skills in Microsoft Office and Outlook
- Highly organized, accurate, and detail oriented
- Strong oral and writing skill
- Ability to manage multiple priorities
- Strong work ethic and sense of responsibility
- Ability to work under pressure and tight time constraints
- Maintains a professional image

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- This position will require approximately 25 hours a week. Schedule can be flexible during exam period.

For more information about Blackboard and their career opportunities, please visit www.blackboard.com.

4. INTERVIEW: RODNEY VILLAZOR, ESQ., ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY

Rodney C. Villazor is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. Mr. Villazor is in the Violent Crimes Unit focusing on prosecuting violent felons, gang members and narcotics and traffickers. Prior to becoming a U.S. Attorney, Mr. Villazor served as a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Jane J. Boyle, and worked as a Litigation Associate at Hughes &

Luce, LLP, in Dallas, Texas. Previously, for five years, Mr. Villazor had worked as a Litigation Associate for Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman, LLP and at Kaye Scholer LLP, in Manhattan. Immediately following law school, Mr. Villazor clerked for U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Charles B. Day in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Mr. Villazor earned his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from The American University, Washington College of Law in 2000. While there, he served as a Note and Comment Editor for the *Administrative Law Review* and was a National Finalist and awarded Regional Best Brief in the Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition.

Mr. Villazor received his B.A. in history, *cum laude*, from The University of Miami, College of Arts and Sciences, in 1996. Before attending law school, from 1996 to 1997, he worked as a paralegal in Merrill Lynch's General Counsel Office in Manhattan.

Mr. Villazor is admitted to practice in New Jersey, New York and Texas.

Questions

2) Describe a typical day as an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, I usually spend my mornings speaking with defense counsel over plea agreements and with federal agents over current investigations and targets. In the afternoon, I usually appear before U.S. district judges or magistrate judges to have defendants my agents arrested that day detained or for various applications made to the judges (for search warrants, wiretaps, etc). Sandwiched between these times are popping in my colleagues' office to pick their brains for advice and strategies.

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

I was attracted to the singular mission of the Department of Justice - to do justice. That, in and of itself, is a reward that makes this job the best one I've ever had.

4) What are some of the downsides of this area of law? How would you compare the reality of your profession to the picture you had of it while in school?

The downside is declining prosecution when I truly believe a defendant is guilty but knowing I cannot prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt. Before going to law school, I thought I would prosecute every defendant in every case. I didn't appreciate that doing justice does not just mean putting criminals in jail. It means respecting the Constitution, the law, the rules of criminal procedure, the level playing field, the presumption of innocence and the burden on the United States to prove every element of a crime beyond a reasonable doubt.

5) Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in attending law school and, specifically, pursuing this body of law?

I would recommend being honest with yourself on why you want to go to law school and be a lawyer. If you want to make a lot of money and are willing to work long hours, go into finance. Law school is expensive. The hours for an attorney are long. For me, I find the work rewarding. In private practice, I found the problem-solving and creative thinking for your clients challenging. In public service, I look forward to going to work to do justice, enjoy the challenge of thinking on my feet and engaging in the adversarial process in court. Overall, I have been lucky to work with some really bright attorneys and in some very complex, exciting cases and trials in both private practice and government work. In short, I enjoy what I do. But I have worked with associates in law firms who had little interest in what they were

doing. But they stay at their jobs and slog through because they have a ton of debt or like the lifestyle that an attorney's salary can provide.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being an Assistant U.S. Attorney, the Department of Justice, or have additional questions for Mr. Villazor, you may contact him directly via email at rvillazor@hotmail.com. Mr. Villazor recommends the blog www.abovethelaw.com as a good forum for pre-law and law students and private practice associates.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming LSAT Administration at JHU for 2009

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

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2009

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

JHU's Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium: Elizabeth Edwards, J.D.

Location: Shriver Hall Auditorium

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Time: Doors at 7:30p, Lecture at 8p

Description: A lecture by attorney and health care advocate Elizabeth Edwards, wife of former senator and presidential candidate John Edwards. Free. For more information, email mse@jhu.edu or visit <http://www.jhu.edu/mse>.

JHU's Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium: RNC Chairman Michael Steele & Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL)

Location: Shriver Hall Auditorium

Date: Thursday, November 5, 2009

Time: Doors at 7:30p, Lecture at 8p

Description: A discussion on the role and future of young people in public service, featuring Republican National Committee chairman Michael Steele (JHU '81, GULC '91), and Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL), the youngest member of Congress. Free. For more information, email mse@jhu.edu or visit <http://www.jhu.edu/mse>.

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

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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.