

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

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Friday, November 6, 2009 – Thursday, November 19, 2009

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Current Applicants: Ideally, by now and/or within the next few weeks, you should be submitting all law school applications for optimal review and consideration. Note that it is unnecessary to hold any application items in an effort to coordinate their submission with all required items. For example, do not wait to submit your applications until all letters of recommendation, transcripts, etc. are on file with LSAC. Submit your end of the application materials as soon as possible, and then follow up with recommenders, the registrar, etc. to ensure that any other outstanding items are on file as soon as possible, too. Good luck!

2. THE PROPER USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA – INCLUDING FACEBOOK!

A word of caution on what you choose to make available publically – through social media including Facebook, Twitter, and otherwise. Law school admissions officers have googled names of applicants in the past, particularly when a questionable item shows on their application. You should google your name from time to time to ensure that nothing has been posted that reflects negatively on you or renders your judgment suspect. Confirm that any publically available pictures of you are “clean,” and do not place your character under scrutiny.

Recently, The New York Times ran an article on the use of Facebook by attorneys, and the implications it had on them professionally. Officers of the Court face even greater scrutiny, especially when it comes to mistruths and criticizing the Court they operate within. It is always important to be conscious of your personal privacy – but even more so as an attorney and when taking any steps to become one!

To read the article, visit the following link:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/13/us/13lawyers.html? r=1>

Finally, thanks to our student worker, Grace Yoo, the Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising is now on Facebook (Profile Name: PreProfessional ProgramsandAdvising).

Click the link below to add us as a friend to receive the latest news and events from the office:
Pre-Prof on FACEBOOK!

3. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: SEO CORPORATE LAW PROGRAM

The Corporate Law Program through Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) places students of color (African American, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino) in summer internships with competitive law firms before they start law school in the Fall. In addition to an internship at a firm in either New York City or Washington, D.C., SEO also hosts a two week Corporate Law Institute comprised of a lecture series and networking forum led by top corporate attorneys and law school professors.

To be eligible for the program, students must be graduating in May 2010 and have already been accepted to and plan on attending law school in Fall 2010. The GPA requirement is a 3.0.

Corporate Law Program Application Deadlines:
Round 1: December 15
Round 2: February 15

For more information on the SEO Corporate Law Program, visit:
http://www.seo-usa.org/Career/Corporate_Law

4. INTERVIEW: ROSE CUISON-VILLAZOR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW

Rose Cuison-Villazor is currently an Associate Professor at Hofstra Law School. Previously, Professor Villazor was an Assistant Professor at Southern Methodist University (SMU) Dedman School of Law where she taught property, immigration law and an advanced citizenship seminar. While at SMU, she organized a colloquium on law and citizenship, which she continues at Hofstra Law.

Professor Villazor's scholarship focuses on property law, immigration law, race, and citizenship. Her recent articles include, "Blood Quantum Land Laws: The Race versus Political Identity Dilemma," in the California Law Review (2008), "Rediscovering Oyama v. California: The Intersection of Property, Race and Citizenship," in the Washington University Law Review (forthcoming 2010), "Reading Between the (Blood) Lines: Political, Not Racial, Membership," in the Southern California Law Review (forthcoming 2010), and "What is a Sanctuary?," in the Southern Methodist University Law Review (2008).

Professor Villazor's current research projects in the area of immigration law examine the regulation of interracial and transnational marriages through the Soldier Brides Act of 1947 and the negotiation for citizenship in the U.S. territories. Her ongoing research in property law conducts a comparative analysis of various indigenous-only land laws in the Pacific Islands. She is the co-editor of and contributor to a forthcoming book titled *Loving v. Virginia in a Post-Racial World: Rethinking Race, Sex, and Marriage* being published by Cambridge University Press in 2010.

Professor Villazor earned her L.L.M., from Columbia Law School (CLS) in 2006. At CLS, she served as a Human Rights Fellow where she focused on the domestic application of international human rights.

Professor Villazor received her J.D., cum laude, from American University, Washington College of Law in 2000. While there, she served as an Editor of the American University Law Review. Upon graduating from law school, she clerked for The Honorable Stephen H. Glickman on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. She then received an Equal Justice Works Fellowship to work for New York Lawyers for the Public Interest as a Staff Attorney from 2001 to 2004.

Professor Villazor received her B.A. in Government from the University of Texas, Austin, in 1996.

Rose Cuison-Villazor is admitted to practice in New York.

Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of an Associate Professor of Law at Hofstra Law School.

My job as a law professor involves teaching and writing about the law. My teaching and writing interests are in property, immigration and citizenship laws. My day differs depending on whether I am teaching or writing or doing both on a particular day. I teach 1 to 2 courses per semester. This semester, I am teaching only one course - Immigration Law - which I teach twice a week. Next semester, I will teach two courses - Property Law and a seminar on citizenship. On a typical day when I teach, I usually start my day at 9 AM, and I then begin preparing for the class that I would teach later that day. If my class is scheduled to meet in the morning, I usually do my class preparation the night before. Class preparation involves reading the cases, statutes, relevant law review articles and recent media reports that will enable me to teach the students the law. It takes me hours to prepare for class because I care deeply about teaching.

Teaching in law school is different from the undergraduate setting in that professors do not lecture (i.e., provide the answer) but instead typically use what is called the "Socratic method." There are different

versions of this method, but the idea is that the professor asks questions from students to elicit the right (or strongest) answers. In the classroom, I strive to teach my students not only what the law is, but also what the law could look like. Thus, I engage not only in legal discussions but policy as well.

On my writing days, I spend the bulk of my time researching and analyzing laws and cases. Law professors write law review articles that are published by student-edited and peer-reviewed journals. Through law review articles, law professors are able to express their views on the law and, arguably, shape the legal and policy debates that take place about any law reformations that should take place.

I also spend a lot of time attending conferences and faculty colloquia within and outside my law school to present my published work and other writing projects that are still "works-in-progress." Through these forums, my research benefits from comments and feedback I get from colleagues and law students.

The summer (mid-May to mid-August) is usually spent researching and writing. I try to do most of my writing in the summer so that during the school year, I am mostly editing my articles.

2) What initially attracted you to this field? What are some of the rewards of legal academia?

I was a high school teacher prior to going to law school, which I enjoyed very much. In law school, I discovered how much I loved reading and writing about legal issues that affected me, my family, and community members. Thus, in law school, I realized that I eventually would want a job that would allow me to teach and write about the law. I am privileged that I was able to attain this goal. I find my job as a law professor to be extremely rewarding. I am constantly challenged in my thinking about what the law is and what the law should be, whether in the classroom, conferences, policy discussions and other events.

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

One "downside" of being in the legal academy is that one has to be disciplined about setting his or her own deadlines. Writing law review articles and books take months and, at times, years. The production of the article or the book depends largely on the professor's ability to finish the project at a time that he/she set for herself. We set our own schedules, which at times makes it really difficult to impose set deadlines.

4) Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in pursuing a career as a law professor?

One thing that students interested in becoming a law professor could do while in law school is to take as many seminars as they can. Doing so might accomplish three things. First, students will have the opportunity to read law review articles and books that would give them a sense of the type of legal writing that law professors do. Second, students will have the opportunity to write papers on issues that they find interesting and obtain feedback from their professors. The professor could help the student publish the papers while the student is still in law school. Publications show promise of a scholarly future. Moreover, seminars generally offer great opportunities for students to get to know their professors better (and vice versa). The relationships formed during seminars might be helpful in a few years when the student eventually seeks a legal professorial job.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about becoming a law professor, or have additional questions for Rose Cuison-Villazor, you may contact her directly through her biography page on Hofstra Law School's website: http://law.hofstra.edu/Directory/Faculty/FullTimeFaculty/ftfac_villazor.html.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming LSAT Administration for 2009/2010

Location: Check with LSDAS for testing locations. The next LSAT administration on campus will be in June 2010.

Date: Saturday, December 5, 2009 / Saturday, February 6, 2010

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, Pre-Law Advisor & Pre-Dental Advisor

David Verrier, Ph.D., Director, Pre-Health Advisor  
Kirsten Kirby, M.S.Ed., Assistant Director, Pre-Health Advisor

Ellen Snyderman, M.S., Pre-Health Advisor

The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:  
Carolyn Mae Krause, Administrative Coordinator, [ckrause@jhu.edu](mailto:ckrause@jhu.edu) 410-516-6744  
For students whose last name begins with A-L, contact Mrs. Krause.

LaTonia Sanders, Administrative Coordinator, [ladytee@jhu.edu](mailto:ladytee@jhu.edu) 410-516-4140  
For students whose last name begins with M-Z, contact Mrs. Sanders.

Angie Decker, Office Manager, [decker@jhu.edu](mailto:decker@jhu.edu)

Please feel free to use the resource library between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. every day or visit our website <http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/> for additional information.