

The Pre-Law e-Newsletter from Pre-Professional Programs & Advising  
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Friday, November 20, 2009 – Thursday, December 3, 2009

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1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.
  2. Externships in Law School: How to Build Your Marketability in a Tough Legal Market
  3. Internship Opportunity: Online Outreach Intern, National Women's Law Center
  4. Interview: Maryanne McGovern, Senior Land Project Manager, Scenic Hudson, Inc.
  5. Upcoming Pre-Law Meetings and Program Announcements
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#### 1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

This intersession we will be offering a pre-law course entitled The Practice of Law. The course is designed to familiarize students with the world of the law and legal practice options, through the eyes of JHU alumni and community members who are (or have been) practicing attorneys. The course will tentatively focus on the following legal specialties: Intellectual Property – including Patent Law, Corporate Law, Entertainment and Sports Law, Environmental/Energy Law, Criminal Law (including White Collar Crime, State and Federal Prosecutors, and Criminal Defense), Employment and Labor Law, Public Interest Law, Working for the Government and Employment and Labor Law.

The course will meet from 10am to 12pm, Monday thru Friday, from January 4 to January 15, 2010 and is open to all undergraduates. For more information and to register, visit the following link:[http://orchid.hosts.jhmi.edu/summer/courses/Intersession/crs\\_academicindex.asp#dept28](http://orchid.hosts.jhmi.edu/summer/courses/Intersession/crs_academicindex.asp#dept28)

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

#### 2. EXTERNSHIPS IN LAW SCHOOL: HOW TO BUILD YOUR MARKETABILITY IN A TOUGH LEGAL MARKET

The current legal job market includes many laid off attorneys and recent law school graduates. This can be daunting to someone at the stage of just entering or currently in law school!

An article by Emily Heller in The National Law Journal entitled, "The Recession Makes Externships a Sweeter Deal for Students," discusses the law student response to the more competitive market: to build externship experiences while in law school. An externship is unpaid, for law school credit and supervised by a faculty member. While summer associate positions dwindle, externships have become a more viable option. Additionally, employers are placing an increased value on practical experience -- which an externship can provide -- as law schools are increasingly under scrutiny for not preparing students for careers as attorneys.

To read the article in full, visit:

[http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticleNLJ.jsp?id=1202433569967&The\\_recession\\_makes\\_externships\\_a\\_sweeter\\_deal\\_for\\_students](http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticleNLJ.jsp?id=1202433569967&The_recession_makes_externships_a_sweeter_deal_for_students)

In the same vein, it is not too early to increase your practical experience through an internship as an undergraduate. Your marketability for future competitive internships, externships and jobs will only increase. The sooner you start, the more experience you can build upon -- step by step.

#### 3. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: ONLINE OUTREACH INTERN, NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER Online Outreach Intern (Unpaid)

The National Women's Law Center (NWLC) seeks an energetic, detail-oriented intern to provide support to NWLC's Outreach team. The intern's responsibilities would focus on social networking and blog outreach.

### Intern Duties and Responsibilities

The Online Outreach Intern supports the Outreach team with a variety of online outreach projects and activities, including helping to develop and maintain the Center's presence in online social networks such as Facebook, drafting posts for the Center's blog, aiding with video blogging, and assisting with outreach to bloggers. The intern also monitors the blogging community and online news to find articles relevant to NWLC's work. In addition, the online outreach intern's responsibilities will include helping to maintain a database of blogger contacts and administrative assistance with the Center's online advocacy tool (Convio). As needed, the Online Outreach Intern may also be called on to assist with general outreach efforts to support the work of the Center.

The NWLC office is an extremely friendly environment with many opportunities to learn and make professional connections. NWLC offers monthly brown-bag lunches on a variety of timely topics and encourages interns to make the most of their time with the organization.

### Qualifications

Applicants should be comfortable working with online platforms and have experience with social networking, including Facebook. Experience working with MySpace and other social networking platforms is preferred. Blogging experience is highly desirable; HTML experience is a plus. The intern should also have strong writing skills, an eye for detail, and a creative outlook.

The Online Outreach Intern should be available for Spring 2010, but start and end dates are flexible. If feasible, NWLC will work with students and their universities to provide college credit for the internship.

To apply, visit the following link for complete instructions:

<http://www.nwlc.org/display.cfm?section=Jobs>

### 4. INTERVIEW:

Maryanne McGovern, Esq. is a Senior Land Project Manager of the Land Acquisition Team of Scenic Hudson, Inc., in Poughkeepsie, New York. Scenic Hudson is the largest environmental group focused on the Hudson River Valley. Ms. McGovern joined Scenic Hudson in 2004, where she provides legal advice on real property and non-profit law, drafts and negotiates contracts and other legal documents, and devises and implements acquisition and disposition strategies for land preservation projects. Prior to joining Scenic Hudson, Ms. McGovern was an Assistant Attorney General for the Attorney General of Washington, where she worked from 1991 to 2003 in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the Natural Resources Division and, ultimately, the Fish & Wildlife Division, where she was lead legal counsel.

Ms. McGovern earned her J.D., with honors, from the University of Washington in 1992. While there, she was a Local 32B-J Thomas Shortman Graduate and Professional School Merit Scholar and earned an American Jurisprudence Award for excellent achievement in the study of Civil Procedure II. During her summers, Ms. McGovern was a graduate intern for the New York City Department of Sanitation, a legal intern for the Sierra Club and a law clerk in the Natural Resources Division and Antitrust Division of the Attorney General of Washington.

Ms. McGovern received her B.A., cum laude, in Government from Hamilton College in 1983. While at Hamilton, she was a Lillia Babbitt Hyde Foundation Scholar, a New York Regents Scholar and studied abroad one semester at City London Polytechnic. Before attending law school, from 1983 to 1989, Ms. McGovern was a legislative intern for then Congressmen Ted Weiss, a research assistant for General Health, Inc. and a finance assistant for FinanSkandic Corporation.

Ms. McGovern is admitted to practice in Washington and New York.

### Questions

1) Describe a typical day as a Senior Land Project Manager.

The best word to describe a day is variety. Not only variety within one day but between days. My days always involve a fair bit of interaction with others within and outside of my organization. Working on

mapping projects with GIS staff, providing legal advice to colleagues, working with outside counsel on a real estate transaction, negotiating with landowners, writing policies, debating aspects of conservation transactions or out hiking a beautiful property conducting a rapid ecological assessment are just a few of the many varied tasks that go into being a Senior Project Manager. Some days are spent in the office, others are spent in the field assessing properties. However, rare is the day where I spend the entire day at my desk with little or no active interaction and communication with others.

2) What initially attracted you to this field? What are some of the rewards of this area of law and the legal profession?

I was initially attracted to environmental law as a way of working in the environmental field without being a scientist. I also wanted a career in which I felt I “would do no harm.” My hobbies of hiking, cross-country skiing and the like are what then drew me specifically to land conservation.

In land conservation, you see the results and benefits of your work in a relatively short time frame. In addition, unlike litigation, the work and interaction with others is non-acrimonious and done with a mutual feeling of working toward the common good. An extra perk is the opportunity to work outside and experience places and landscapes that otherwise would not be available to me.

3) 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 ability to move up in an organization, as land trusts tend to be small and at the higher levels do not experience a high amount of turnover.

I was not aware of this type of work while in law school. However, after working as an Assistant Attorney General for the Washington State Attorney General’s office for 10 years after law school, I made a conscious decision to transition into the non-profit, land trust world, and the work is pretty much as I expected it to be.

4) Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in pursuing this body of law and the legal profession?

A law degree will always serve you well, even if you transition out of traditional legal work as I did. My legal background enhances my work every day and also puts me in a unique position on the staff of the land trust. There are so many variations in careers in the law that I recommend that an undergraduate experience as many as possible through internships, volunteer positions and/or jobs. A law degree is invaluable, but litigation, for example, is not for everyone. So, try things out – there’s a lot out there for people with law degrees besides big law firms.

#### Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a real estate transactions attorney/Senior Land Project Manager, working at a land trust or Scenic Hudson, Inc., conservation/environmental law, or have additional questions for Ms. McGovern, you may contact her directly via email at [mmcgovern@scenichudson.org](mailto:mmcgovern@scenichudson.org). Ms. McGovern recommends the Land Trust Alliance website as a resource: <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/>

#### 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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The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:  
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For students whose last name begins with A-L, contact Mrs. Krause.

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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.