

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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 3, No. 8

Friday, January 29, 2010 – Thursday, February 11, 2010

~~~~~  
1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.

2. Law School Applications Up Due to Economy

3. Internship Opportunity: Unpaid Student Volunteer Internship Program, International Trade Administration (ITA), Department of Commerce (DOC)

4. Interview: Dolores Dorsainvil, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney, District of Columbia Office of Bar Counsel

5. Upcoming Pre-Law Meetings and Program Announcements  
~~~~~

1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Welcome back! I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that your first week of Spring semester classes went well. If you would like to discuss what courses you should ultimately take/have questions regarding an appropriate semester course load as it relates to a law school application, please feel free to make an appointment with me.

For those of you that are Juniors and intend to apply next Fall (to commence law school the Fall of 2011), be sure to make an appointment with me so that you can put your strongest application forward.

I have heard from many of you who applied this past Fall regarding your outcomes. Be sure to keep the updates coming! If you have questions regarding multiple seat deposits or would like help in deciding which law school is the best fit for you, we can discuss this during an appointment.

Appointments can be made online via the following link:

<https://www.securedata-trans10.com/ap/johnshopkinsuniversityofficeofpreprofessionalprogramsadvising/index.php?page=10>

2. LAW SCHOOL APPLICATIONS UP DUE TO ECONOMY

Although last Fall 2008, law school applications increased by 5.5% nationally, this year law schools may realize more of an increase, according to a January 10, 2010 article entitled "Recession Spurs Interest in Graduate, Law Schools," by Rebecca R. Ruiz in The New York Times. The article states that the October 2009 LSAT had 20% more test takers than the October 2008 LSAT. Further, some law schools have reported a major bump up in applications when comparing year-to-date data: Washington University in St. Louis, had a 19% increase since last year at this time, the University of San Francisco School of Law a 35% increase, and Cornell University Law School a 44% increase.

Most speculate that this rise in law school -- and other graduate school program -- applications took a year to really show, as the impact of the economic downturn has finally hit and people are now taking next steps to ride out the storm or better themselves for when the job market picks up again.

For those that applied this past Fall 2009, this is something to keep in mind -- there are that many more applicants you are competing against for seats. Whether they are more competitive applicants, however, has yet to be determined.

To read the article, "Recessions Spurs Interest in Graduate, Law Schools," in its entirety, visit the following link:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/education/10grad.html?emc=eta1>

3. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: UNPAID STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION (ITA), DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC)

Selected student interns are assigned to an office within one of the following 5 units within the ITA:

- 1) Import Administration (IA)
- 2) Market Access and Compliance (MAC)
- 3) Manufacturing and Services (MAS)
- 4) Trade Promotion and the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (US&FCS)
- 5) Executive Administration (ExAdmin)

Basic Qualifications

All applicants applying to participate in the Unpaid Volunteer Student Internship Program must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a United States citizen.
- Must be enrolled as a degree-seeking student in an accredited four year or graduate program
- Must be in good academic standing, maintaining a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher
- Must have completed at least 60 hours in a four year program prior to entry on duty

In addition to meeting the basic qualifications required, applicants must also

- Work well in a team environment
- Have very strong communication skills, and be detailed oriented
- Have a working knowledge of computer applications such as Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel
- Have excellent writing, reading, and interpersonal skills
- Be able to organize a variety of assignments simultaneously and meet tight deadlines
- International experience (e.g., studying, travel, and working) strongly desired, but not required
- Ability to speak a foreign language desired, but not required.

How to Apply

A complete application will consist of the following three documents:

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Current unofficial or official transcript

DEADLINE FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS: FEBRUARY 26, 2010

Application materials should be forwarded to unpaidstudentinternship@mail.doc.gov or faxed to 202.501.6159 prior to the deadline.

For more information and a complete description, visit: <http://www.ita.doc.gov/hrm/unpaidstudentinternships.pdf>

4. INTERVIEW: DOLORES DORSAINVIL, ESQ., SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

Dolores Dorsainvil is a Senior Staff Attorney at the District of Columbia Office of Bar Counsel, where she investigates and prosecutes allegations of ethical misconduct of Washington, D.C. lawyers. Ms. Dorsainvil joined the D.C. Office of Bar Counsel after serving for over three years as an Assistant Bar Counsel at the Attorney Grievance Commission in Crownsville, MD. Prior to this, Ms. Dorsainvil was an Associate Attorney at Goldberg & Finnegan, where she performed trials in various Courts of Maryland and D.C. for civil cases involving personal injury, contract, estate, family and criminal defense matters.

Ms. Dorsainvil has served as guest speaker at numerous continuing legal education seminars in the District of Columbia and Maryland on ethical matters. She is very involved in her legal community and is Co-Editor of *The Advocate*, the publication of the Young Lawyers Section of the Maryland State Bar Association. This year, she is also an Assistant Editor for the ABA's Young Lawyers Division newsletter, *The Young Lawyer*. Ms. Dorsainvil is an appointed member of the Professionalism Committee of the Maryland State Bar Association and has taught at the mandatory Professionalism Course for new admittees to the Maryland Bar. She is the former Chair of the Legislative Reception for the Women's Bar Association of Maryland (2006-2008) and is currently the Co-Chair of the Judicial Selections Committee for the Women's Bar Association.

Ms. Dorsainvil is also an Adjunct Professor at American University, Washington College of Law, where she teaches Legal Ethics.

Ms. Dorsainvil earned her J.D., from American University, Washington College of Law in 2000. While there, she was a Recent Developments Editor of the *Administrative Law Review*, an official publication of the American Bar Association, and a recipient of the Emalee C. Godsey Scholarship and the Women's Law Association Scholarship. Additionally during her law school tenure, Ms. Dorsainvil was a Student Attorney in her law school's Civil Practice Clinic, a Law Clerk for the Law Offices of Bradford J. Barneyes, a Law Clerk for the Office of the Chief Attorney, Department of the Army, and a Research Assistant for Moore & Brown, Class Action Reports, Inc.

Ms. Dorsainvil received her B.A. in Urban Studies and Public Policy from Boston University in 1997. From 1995 to 1997, Ms. Dorsainvil was a Legal Assistant for Willcox, Pirozzolo & McCarthy, P.C. in Boston, MA.

Ms. Dorsainvil is admitted to practice in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Questions

1) Describe a typical day as a Senior Staff Attorney, District of Columbia Office of Bar Counsel.

Working as a Senior Staff Attorney for the D.C. Office of Bar Counsel proves to be very challenging and rewarding work. The best aspect of my job is that almost no two disciplinary matters are the same, which means that my day-to-day assignments and responsibilities are ever changing. From the moment I get a complaint, I perform some initial background investigation to get a sense of who the respondent is and what category they fall into. I determine if they are a young lawyer, a seasoned attorney, or mid-career lawyer. In addition, I find out if the attorney has had any prior discipline in our jurisdiction, and, if so, I review the prior matter to gauge whether there is pattern behavior or similar misconduct with that attorney. Then I look to see if the attorney is barred in any other jurisdictions, and, if so, I review any discipline in that jurisdiction. Once I have that information I then review the complaint and send it to the lawyer so that they have the opportunity to respond to the allegation. When I receive the response, I review it to make sure that it is: 1) timely, 2) responsive, and 3) doesn't raise any other violations of the ethical rules. I then send that information to the complainant, who may be a client, a judge, opposing counsel, or any other third party that has come into contact with the attorney and has initiated the grievance. The complainant then has an opportunity to send a reply. If at that juncture I can make a

credibility determination, then I draft a recommendation analyzing the Rules of Professional Conduct and case law on the issues involved and send it for approval to my office's overseer, The Board of Professional Responsibility for the District of Columbia. If I am not able to make a credibility determination and need further evidence, then I may spend my day interviewing witnesses, meeting with the complaint or the responding attorney, subpoenaing documents and/or client files, reviewing court files, or reading transcripts from hearings where it is alleged that the attorney engaged in misconduct. In addition to doing initial investigations I also meet with members of the public and take telephone calls on the office hotline where I explain the disciplinary process to those persons who are interested in filing a complaint against an attorney. Another function of my job is that I do speaking engagements for different bar associations, area law schools, and/or corporations on the Rules of Professional Conduct and ethical pitfalls that lawyers, students, and non-lawyer assistants must be mindful of.

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

When I started my legal career, I did not have a sense of what I wanted to do with my law degree. I was fortunate enough to have honed my litigation skills while at law school through practical clinics and was able to land a job working as a civil litigator at a small firm upon graduation. After doing that for several years, I got a job at the Bar Counsel's office in Maryland. Once I entered the ethics/disciplinary world, I must say I found it very exciting, and now I can't imagine practicing any other area of law. This area of law is fulfilling for me because, as a public servant, I know that my office has a dual function of protecting the public from the unscrupulous acts of bad lawyers and also to protect lawyers from unfounded complaints while educating them on this very important aspect of the law.

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?

One of the downsides is that it's hard to make new lawyer acquaintances, because once an attorney finds out what I do, the assumption is that I may take their license away. However, I'm more interested in making sure that attorneys that can be rehabilitated are given the opportunity to learn from their mistakes as long as the client was not prejudiced.

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

Yes. I would advise any undergrad or law student interested in ethics/disciplinary work to talk to the Bar Counsel or an Assistant Bar Counsel in your jurisdiction to learn more about what the office does. Also, you may want to inquire whether there is an opportunity to intern so that you can acquire hands-on experience in that field.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about the Office of Bar Counsel and legal ethics, or have additional questions for Ms. Dorsainvil, you may visit www.dcbbar.org or contact Ms. Dorsainvil directly via telephone at 202.638.1501 or email at DorsainvilD@dcobc.org.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming LSAT Administration for 2010

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

Date: Saturday, February 6, 2010

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

JHU Study Abroad Fair -- Featuring a Pre-Law Breakout Session*

Location: Glass Pavilion

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2010

Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Description: Meet representatives from universities and programs abroad!

*There will be a breakout session at 12 noon featuring a panel of JHU Pre-Laws who studied abroad

Additional Spring Programming Coming Soon!

~~~~~  
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. everyday or visit our website <http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/> for additional information.