

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

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Friday, February 12, 2010 – Thursday, February 26, 2010

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

I hope that everyone made good use of this past snow week, and that you are now back in the groove!

Hopefully those of you that were set to take the February LSAT locally were not too upset by the rescheduling of the Saturday, February 6th test. Be sure to check with LSAC for make-up test dates, though LSAC should notify you directly via email with additional and updated options.

The most up to date LSAC Action Report from the 2008-2009 law school application cycle should be released this week. The Action Report can be a useful tool when building your law school list, as it provides applicant and admission data specific to applicants from Hopkins. Once received, the new Action Report will be available for review on our website, at the following link:

<http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/statistics.html>

2. THE PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Many of you have an interest in pursuing a career in public interest law. However, with the ever increasing cost of a legal education, many are deterred from this path for financial reasons. Recently, Congress created a program which allows greater viability of this pursuit.

“The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program is one of the most significant breakthroughs for public interest lawyers in a generation. Public Service Loan Forgiveness is a new program established by the College Cost Reduction & Access Act offering loan forgiveness after 10-years of public service employment. To qualify for loan forgiveness, a borrower must make monthly loan payments for ten years (120 payments) while working full-time in qualifying public service employment.”*

For comprehensive information about Public Service Loan Forgiveness including which jobs qualify, which loans are covered, how to earn forgiveness, and tools that include calculators, downloadable worksheets, podcasts and an interactive forum, visit the following link:

*<http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/resources/student-debt-relief/public-service-loan-forgiveness>

3. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: SEC SUMMER HONORS COLLEGE PROGRAM 2010

This is a fantastic opportunity for those interested in pursuing a career in corporate law!

The Security and Exchange Commission's (SEC) mission is to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation.

Program Description

The SEC's Summer Honors College Program gives undergraduate students an opportunity to become acquainted with the regulation of the securities markets and the activities of the Commission. Students

from undergraduate schools across the country work at the Commission's Washington, DC, Headquarters and in a number of our Regional Offices nationwide.

The Summer Honors College Program is a 10-week long internship that introduces undergraduate students pursuing degrees in such areas as accounting, economics, finance, human resources management, and information technology/information security, among others, to the regulation of the securities markets and the work of the Commission.

Duties

Over the course of the ten-week program, students work with Commission staff on several projects particular to the specific Division or Office to which they are assigned. Students participate in seminars/workshops on various aspects of the federal securities law. Past presentations have included: An Overview of Federal Securities Laws; Securities Fraud on the Internet; Mergers and Acquisitions; and the SEC's Investigative Process.

Basic Qualifications

- Students must be U.S. citizens
- Relatives of current SEC employees are ineligible
- Students must have completed at least one year of undergraduate study by the start of the summer
- Students must be either (a) continuing an undergraduate program during the summer and or/following fall or (b) continuing into a graduate program the fall immediately after concluding an undergraduate program
- Students must have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA

Deadline

March 15, 2010

For more information and to apply for one of the Washington, D.C. vacancies, visit the following link: <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=85187019&JobTitle=Summer+Honors+College+Program+2010&q=summer+honors+program&where=&x=102&y=13&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&AVSDM=2010-02-01+08%3a59%3a00>

SEC Summer Honors College Programs are also available in Los Angeles, Boston, New York City, Chicago, Atlanta, and Miami. For more information on these vacancies, visit the following link: <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/search.aspx?q=summer+honors+program&where=&x=102&y=13&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y>

4. INTERVIEW: HEATHER M. KOFRON, PARTNER, CIVIL LITIGATION GROUP, VANDEVENTER BLACK, LLP

Heather M. Kofron is a Partner in the Civil Litigation Group, of Vandeventer Black LLP, in Richmond, Virginia, where her practice focuses on insurance defense, products liability, employment litigation, personal injury and wrongful death defense, medical malpractice defense, warranty/lemon law, and business and commercial disputes. Ms. Kofron is an experienced trial attorney through all phases of litigation in state and federal courts throughout Virginia. Her recent notable engagements include defending a national security company against a sexual assault claim that arose at a prominent university; defending national long-term care providers against survival, personal injury and wrongful deaths claims; and prosecuting and defending claims for civil conspiracy, tortious interference, violations of trade secrets and other business related torts.

Prior to joining Vandeventer Black LLP, Heather served as pro se law clerk to the Honorable Rebecca Beach Smith of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division, from 1998 to 1999.

In 2008, Ms. Kofron was selected for inclusion in Virginia Super Lawyers - Rising Stars 2008 and one of Virginia's Legal Elite Young Lawyers in Virginia Business magazine.

Ms. Kofron earned her J.D., summa cum laude, from American University, Washington College of Law in December 1997. While there, she served on the Moot Court Board and was a Member of the American University Law Review.

Ms. Kofron received her B.S., magna cum laude, in Political Science and Human Communications with an emphasis on Alternative Dispute Resolution from James Madison University.

Ms. Kofron is licensed to practice in Virginia and all U.S. District Courts in Virginia, as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Questions

1) Describe a typical day as Partner in the Civil Litigation Group at Vandeventer Black LLP.

For me, no day in practice is typical. There are many days where I am traveling to places all over Virginia for depositions or deposition preparation for witnesses, meeting with experts, or attending court hearings. For the days that I am in the office, I am usually playing catch up with all of that I have missed while on travel from returning phone calls, reviewing, drafting and signing pleadings, and reviewing and answering emails. My practice is very diverse for a civil litigation practice and ranges from employment law, personal injury, products liability, and medical malpractice defense.

Because the type of cases I work on change often, I feel like am always switching gears rather than focusing on just one practice area.

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

I initially only wanted to practice employment law. My first law firm did not have enough employment work for me. Rather than leaving, I adapted and started working on the cases available, which led me into many different practice areas. I think that it may be good to not pigeonhole yourself into one area of specialty. In this economy, I have seen many well established partners lose their jobs because of the elimination of a practice group. The type of litigation work I do is rewarding when you win a case or obtain a good settlement. However, there are drawbacks to a litigation career. I have two small children, and I often have to work weekends, on vacations, and whenever a trial is in the horizon. It is very time consuming and stressful. You have very little personal time or time for your family when your caseload is heavy. What is often worse is when your opposing counsel is difficult, which often increases your stress and aggravation.

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 downside for a litigation career is that your schedule is often not your own as discussed above. The cases are not always as exciting as you would like, but, at the end of the day, you just want to meet your billable hours goal and get the receipts paid. As a partner, I seem to care less about what I am working on and more about getting the receipts paid. In this economy, there is a lot of effort in getting clients and insurance carriers to pay their bills before the end of the year accounting. The reality of marketing is also different from what I thought would occur when I first began my career. There were many years that passed where I received no instruction on how to market myself. Now that I am a partner, I realize that no partner is going to turn a client over to me, as may have occurred many years ago. Firms now have more of a focus on client development. In hindsight, I did not take enough time to network more. I advise those starting in practice at a law firm to focus on marketing as early as they can in their careers.

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

My advice is to pick a practice area that you can see yourself doing long term. In hindsight, I should have chosen a career that was easier to handle with children. You can change practice areas early in your career, and you should consider doing so if you are not happy where you are or feel like a different type of work would be more appealing or easier for your lifestyle. Moreover, if you do not like your firm, or you do not see where your firm allows for flexibility, then I would consider your options.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a litigator, civil litigation, Vandevanter Black LLP, or have additional questions for Ms. Kofron, you may contact her directly via email at HKofron@vanblk.com or visit her firm's website at <http://www.vanblk.com/index.asp>.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Post-Bac Opportunities Panel: Teach for America, Peace Corps & the JET Program

Location: TBD

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Description: Thinking of taking time off before law school? Learn more about great GAP year options including Teach for America, Peace Corps & the JET Program.

Post-Bac Opportunities Panel: Americorps, City Year & Environment America

Co-sponsored by the Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising and the Career Center

Location: TBD

Date: Thursday, March 11, 2010

Time: 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Description: Learn more about GAP year options including Americorps, City Year & Environment America.

The Insider's Scoop: JHU Alums in Law School

Location: TBD

Date: TBD

Time: TBD

Description: JHU alums who are current law students will discuss their law school experiences.

DC Area Law School Admissions Panel

Location: TBD

Date: TBD

Time: TBD

Description: Admissions representatives from DC area law schools will discuss their schools and answer questions.

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: Monday, June 6, 2010

Time: Registration begins at 12:30a - 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., Monday through Friday, or visit our website at <http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/> for additional information.