

The Pre-Law e-Newsletter from Pre-Professional Programs & Advising
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Friday, February 26, 2010 – Thursday, March 11, 2010

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

For those of you that have gained admission to a law school that requires a Dean's Certification Form, please review the process for how to complete the form at the following link:

http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/law/deans_forms.html

Note that in addition to the law school form, there are 3 additional items required before the law school form can be completed.

Most of the Spring programming has been finalized. The second week of March will be busy, with three programs of interest offered: two different post-bacc opportunities panels, each featuring a range of options for those interested in taking a year or two off prior to matriculating to law school, and a presentation by Joanne D. Rosen, Esq., President Daniel's wife and former counsel to the Ontario Human Rights Commission in Toronto, Canada. Details of all upcoming programs can be found below in section 5. Try to attend these great programs!

2. RECESSION SPURS A POSITIVE EFFECT IN THE LEGAL MARKET

There have been a multitude of reports regarding the gutting effect the recession has had on the legal market, particularly as it relates to recent law school graduates and young associates. Many firms have not extended the near customary offer of full time employment upon graduation following summer work, or, at the very least, have extended less offers. Most firms have delayed new hires' start dates.

A program implemented through the City of New York Bar has taken advantage of another option: placing new lawyers in public service, defending the poor, for one year, while the new lawyers receive a stipend from their firm. This option benefits both the new lawyers and the public sector. It exposes new lawyers to a practice area they may never have otherwise been exposed to, offers the chance to gain legal and, often, trial experience during their first year of practice, and presents possible pro-bono work to pursue in the future. Concurrently, public service organizations gain much needed labor in what is generally an understaffed and overworked environment.

The New York Times recently featured an article highlighting this program and followed one new lawyer in particular. Chris Reid is a Fordham Law School graduate soon to be in the patent litigation department of large firm Ropes & Gray. Opting out of a January start date and in lieu of his first year at the firm, Reid chose to receive a stipend from his firm and work for one year at the Legal Aid Society and in Brooklyn housing court, keeping families in their homes.

You can read the article in its entirety here:

<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/11/new-york-on-less-monday/>

You can also watch a video on this story which follows a few of the new lawyers, particularly Reid's experiences, here:

<http://video.nytimes.com/video/2010/01/11/nyregion/1247466462920/the-new-lawYERS.html?scp=1&sq=new%20lawyers&st=cse>

For more information on his personal experiences while participating in this program, Reid answers questions and reflects upon his choice in the following blog: <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/18/answers-from-a-young-lawyer/>

3. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: JHU HOUSE MUSEUMS -- EVERGREEN & HOMEWOOD

For those of you that are interested in intellectual property law -- including "art" law -- internship opportunities are currently available at the JHU historic house museums, Homewood & Evergreen. These internships are a great way to break into and gain on the ground experience in the field:

Description

The Pinkard-Bolton Internship provides the opportunity to gain significant understanding of the museum profession through work at Homewood Museum, the 1801 country house of Charles Carroll, Jr. The internship experience includes exposure to collections, operations as a university museum, and issues in historic preservation. One summer intern will be selected for a ten-week-long, two-day a week (10 hour) internship and will receive a stipend of \$1500, or \$15 per hour.

Evergreen Museum & Library's Student Curatorship provides a rare educational opportunity to students who are preparing for professional and scholarly careers, particularly within museums. The Student Curator will obtain hands-on experience in the curatorial profession, participating in the planning, organization, and implementation of an exhibition relevant to the collections and/or mission of Evergreen. One Student Curator is appointed a year for the summer (May–August) OR fall (September–December) semester.

You may apply for both internships simultaneously by submitting two separate applications.

How to Apply

Information and application materials may be found online at: <http://www.museums.jhu.edu/support.php?page=docentsinterns>. Inquiries can be directed to museums@jhu.edu.

DEADLINE: Friday, March 5, 2010

4. INTERVIEW: JAMES FREEDMAN, JHU '09 /SLS '12

James Freedman graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Johns Hopkins University in May 2009, earning a B.A. in Political Science. He won the American Marketing Association, Baltimore Chapter, Book scholarship in 2008 and the Louis Azrael Fellowship in Communications in 2007. While at Hopkins, James was a teaching assistant for three courses offered through the Center for Leadership Education, Business Law, Internet Law and Business Ethics. Additionally, James was the Online Editor of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter for 2 years, where he led a team of five, re-designed the student weekly's site, and produced weekly sections as the Special Editions & Focus Editor.

Additionally, James worked at The Huffington Post where he supervised writers, edited submissions and authored political and policy articles, including an interview with Congressman Ron Paul for a series on his (then) presidential bid. James also wrote "video voter" segments and Op-Eds for the Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles, CA; wrote on the college application process and other topics for Los Angeles Family Magazine; Covered immigration issues, labor strikes, space launches and other Southern California news for America's largest regional newswire, the City News Service; and Broadcast on-air current condition reports and security updates on LAX AirRadio 530 AM.

James Freedman is currently a first year law student (1L) at Stanford Law School (SLS), where he is a participant in the Social Security Disability Project and a Board Member of the Stanford Technology Law Review and Stanford Law and Technology Association.

Questions

1) Describe a typical day as a 1L at Stanford Law School (SLS). What has been your favorite class to date, and why?

Aside from a few hours of scheduled class time and assigned reading per day, along with occasional assignments, it's really what you decide to make of it. I try to stay balanced by getting involved in pro bono and other extracurricular activities, getting out to play tennis or other recreational sports with classmates a few times a week, and making time for a personal life -- but it would definitely be easy to become consumed by coursework due to the volume of material covered in each class in a relatively short period of time (SLS just transitioned to the quarter system so this term -- my first real quarter, since the first term of 1L is essentially the length of a semester -- is really flying by...). There's also a vast array of lunches and other events at the law school each day during which individual speakers or panels discuss a variety of issues, ranging from recent Supreme Court decisions to the legal implications of new technologies (e.g. robotics).

I've enjoyed each of my classes. All of my professors have been engaging, and each subject area is interesting in its own way. Perhaps the biggest surprise has been that even classes I thought I would not be that interested in -- criminal law and property -- ended up being great.

2) What types of undergraduate opportunities did you pursue that led to your decision to apply to law school? Were there any experiences that you thought were particularly helpful in strengthening your application to law school?

Several of the law-related classes I took at Hopkins in the political science or entrepreneurship and management departments increased my interest in applying to law school -- particularly, constitutional law with Joel Grossman and business and internet law with Mark Franceschini. I ended up being a teaching assistant for Professor Franceschini, and that further convinced me that I'd find law school interesting. I think the teaching assistant experience, as well as some of my more in-depth policy-related journalism, strengthened my application, but that's just speculation.

3) What made you choose Stanford Law School, and has it met your expectations so far? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school, and, particularly, Stanford Law?

As with any important decision, there were of course numerous factors that went into my law school choice, but some of the big pluses I saw in SLS included the class size (smallest of the top schools), the location, and the focus on technology and innovation. On the whole, the experience has met my expectations (which were pretty high, so that's saying something) and exceeded them in some areas. For instance, many of my professors have gone a long way to make themselves accessible, including taking groups of students out to lunch or inviting us over to their homes for dinner. My classmates are also really great -- genuinely kind and helpful, not competitive with one another, and really fun and interesting to be around. There are also so many things to do that any worry I might have had about a small school not providing sufficient opportunities was, in hindsight, clearly baseless.

I think law school is a generally interesting three years, and despite increasing specialization, it's great for generalist personalities, as you get to study a single field that just happens to touch upon every area of society -- from art to family law to business to technology...all leading to the possibility of a good career when you get out.

Those benefits, however, bring about increasing numbers of law school applicants, students, and graduates, which might make landing that perfect job a little more uncertain. With that in mind, another pro of going to a top school like Stanford is that finding a job you'll be happy with coming from here is probably a little easier than it might be elsewhere. Having only attended law school here (and that only for several months), it's hard for me to compare the experience to that at other schools, but I doubt I could be having a better 1L year anywhere else.

4) Do you have an idea of what you may pursue during your summers and/or the next 2 school years?

I have plans for a judicial internship at the California Supreme Court this summer. I don't know what opportunities will present themselves further down the road.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a 1L at Stanford Law School or have additional questions for James Freedman, you may contact him directly via email at jfreedman@gmail.com or visit his SLS's website at <http://www.law.stanford.edu/>.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Post-Bacc Opportunities Panel 1: Teach for America, Peace Corps & the JET Program

Location: Maryland 110

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 directly from representatives of Teach for America, Peace Corps & the JET Program.

Career Series Panel: Joanne D. Rosen, Esq., Administrative/Human Rights Law

Location: Maryland 110

Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Description: Joanne D. Rosen will discuss her area of legal expertise and experiences as counsel to the Ontario Human Rights Commission in Toronto, Canada.

Post-Bacc Opportunities Panel 2: Americorps, City Year & Environment America

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

Location: Maryland 110

Date: Thursday, March 11, 2010

Time: 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Description: Learn more about GAP year options directly from representatives of Americorps, City Year & Environment America.

DC Area Law School Admissions Panel

Location: Mason Hall Auditorium

Date: March 30 or 31, 2010

Time: 12:00 noon – 12:50 pm

Description: Admissions representatives from American University, Washington College of Law; Georgetown University Law Center; George Washington University Law School; and The University of Maryland School of Law will discuss their respective law 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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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.

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