

**The Pre-Law e-Newsletter from Pre-Professional Programs & Advising**  
**\*Best viewed in HTML\***

Vol. 3, No. 13

Friday, April 9, 2010 – Thursday, April 22, 2010

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

The final pre-law program of the 2009/2010 academic year will be held on Tuesday, April 13th, from 5:30 to 6:30pm in Maryland 114. JHU Alums -- who are currently law students at area law schools -- will discuss what law school is really like. Try to attend and learn from your future law school peers and former JHU classmates; see section 5 for more information.

For those of you that intend to take the Saturday, October 9, 2010 LSAT, be sure to register for the test if you have not done so already. The June and September/October LSAT are the most popular test administration dates; the sooner you register, the better your chances of obtaining a seat at your preferred testing site. At this time, only the June and September/October LSATs are administered at JHU, on behalf of LSAC. To register and for further information, visit: [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).

2. LSAC WASHINGTON, DC LAW SCHOOL FORUM

LSAC's Washington, DC Law Forum -- arguably the largest of the LSAC Law School Forums -- provides an excellent opportunity to speak with representatives of over 180 LSAC-member law schools; obtain admission materials, catalogs, and financial aid information; and attend live informational sessions. If you will be in the area, consider attending this June!

Washington, DC Law School Forum

Saturday, June 19 (10:00 AM–5:00 PM)

Marriott Wardman Park

2660 Woodley Road, NW

Admission is free. Registration and a participating schools list are available online at [www.LSAC.org/lawschoolforums](http://www.LSAC.org/lawschoolforums).

To save time at the forum, please preregister at [www.LSAC.org/lawschoolforums](http://www.LSAC.org/lawschoolforums).

Several panel presentations and workshops will be offered, including a workshop designed to help attendees make the most of their time at the forum; a discussion of issues of particular relevance to diverse applicants; and workshops on the application process, the legal profession, the LSAT, and financing a legal education.

You can find a list of scheduled times for the workshops at <http://www.LSAC.org/Choosing/law-school-recruitment-forums-workshops.asp>

For more information, please check the Law School Admission Council website at [www.LSAC.org](http://www.LSAC.org) or call 215.968.1001.

If you will not be in the area this summer, review the following link to determine whether there will be a forum in your area. Other cities hosting LSAC Law Forums include: Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, Oakland, New York, Boston, Houston, and Atlanta.

Fliers for these forums can be found at <http://www.LSACnet.org/EventsandDates/LS-forum/ls-forum-fliers.htm>.

3. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: SUMMER INTERN (BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SPECIALIST), US INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) in Washington, DC is seeking applications from

qualified individuals to fill a range of positions under the Summer Intern Program for 2010. Selectee will be expected to perform a variety of duties related to the occupational area and program to which they are assigned.

#### Job Summary

The USITC is an independent Federal agency that adjudicates import injury cases and provides the President and Congress with high quality analysis and technical support on international trade, tariff, and competitiveness issues.

Positions are available in the Office of Industries and in the Office of Investigations

#### Office of Industries:

Interns will research and analysis of a variety of international trade issues, including non tariff trade measures, and competitiveness. Work alongside highly skilled colleagues to examine how such issues affect the U.S. economy, U.S. industries, and international trade flows. Interns will contribute to teams engaged in analytical work. Interns will assist in researching, developing, and presenting information and data for use in statutory reports, technical assistance, and staff-initiated research.

#### Office of Investigations:

The interns will perform a variety of tasks, such as:

- \* conduct research on specific companies, industries, and markets
- \* analyze information gathered from questionnaires by compiling the data into spreadsheets, reviewing the results for reasonableness and completeness, and comparing the results to similar data sources for consistency
- \* assess existing data bases (both statistical and qualitative) for accuracy, completeness, and relevance to ongoing investigations
- \* prepare investigative reports (draft text, review text for accuracy, and generate tables and charts)
- \* review the office's historical data as contained in the website and update/correct the data as needed
- \* perform general office duties as necessary

DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010

For further information, including how to apply, visit the following link:

<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=87279806&JobTitle=SUMMER+INTERN+%28BUSINESS+AND+INDUSTRY+SPECIALIST&q=summer&x=0&y=0&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&pg=8&re=3&sort=dtex&AVSDM=2010-04-06+05%3a37%3a00>

#### 4. INTERVIEW: GREGORY W. FORTSCH (JHU '91), SENIOR ATTORNEY, FTC

Greg Fortsch is a Senior Attorney in the Bureau of Consumer Protection at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in Washington, DC. He is responsible for monitoring, investigating and prosecuting companies and individuals who violate the nation's consumer protection laws in the areas of false and deceptive advertising. His focus is on companies that provide consumers with healthcare services and/or products. While at the FTC, Mr. Fortsch has served as lead counsel in cases against Walgreens, Rite Aid, and CVS Pharmacy involving allegedly unsubstantiated advertising claims that certain dietary supplements they sold could prevent or treat colds and flu. In addition, he was recently appointed to the FTC/Food and Drug Administration (FDA) working group which seeks to facilitate greater cooperation between the agencies on law enforcement and investigation of advertising claims for dietary supplements. Mr. Fortsch speaks regularly on FTC-related topics, including recently at conferences in Cairo, Egypt and San Jose, Costa Rica.

Mr. Fortsch graduated with departmental honors from The Johns Hopkins University in 1991 with a B.A. in History. In 1994, he earned a juris doctor (JD) degree from Seton Hall University School of Law in Newark, New Jersey. After graduation from law school, Mr. Fortsch clerked for one year for the Honorable Mark B. Epstein of the Superior Court of New Jersey in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Following his clerkship, he moved to Washington and spent over 8 years in public service, representing the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and FDA as an attorney for the Department of Justice; an attorney in the General Counsel's Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and an

associate counsel to VA's Board of Veterans Appeals. For 4 years following service in the Departments of Justice and VA and prior to his current appointment at the FTC, Mr. Fortsch was in private practice, where he focused on assisting health care clients involved in federal government investigations by HHS, FDA, and FTC, among other federal agencies.

Greg Fortsch is a member of the New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and District of Columbia Bars.

#### Questions

1) Describe a day in the life of a Senior Attorney at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

There is never a typical day for me at the FTC. Each day is different. Some days, I am immersed in litigation and might be in the process of drafting some sort of persuasive document to file in federal court. I might spend an entire day or several full days crafting the language that I think will be most persuasive and/or doing legal research to find caselaw that supports the points I want to make. Deadlines in many of my cases can be tight, so, if I am under deadline, I may need to put in very long days. Other litigation-related activities I might be engaged in involve preparing for an oral argument before a judge, preparing for a deposition of a fact or expert witness, preparing an expert witness to testify at trial or in a deposition, and culling through documents provided by opposing counsel. If I am not involved in litigation-related tasks, there are any number of other interesting activities in which I could be engaged. For instance, I spend a considerable amount of my time trying to avoid litigation by discussing ways to settle cases with lawyers for companies and individuals whom we are investigating. If I am not involved in negotiation or litigation, I might be discussing with FTC officials the merits of undertaking an investigation of or litigation against companies or individuals whom I think have violated the law I am charged with enforcing. These officials include officials of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection where I work or any one of the 5 commissioners who lead the FTC or those who serve on the commissioners' staffs. From time to time, I speak both internally and at public and international forums on what the FTC does in the area of false and deceptive advertising and update or rewrite FTC industry and consumer guidance on the agency website or in print involving advertising issues. Since I have been practicing law for nearly 15 years, I often act in the role of team leader or supervisor. As a result, some of my days may involve reviewing the work of junior lawyers who are preparing first drafts of a memorandum summarizing the law, an internal memorandum, or a submission for the court.

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

Honestly, I knew from a fairly early age that I wanted to be a lawyer, but I didn't have any idea what kind of lawyer I wanted to be until I was out of law school. While in law school, my instincts as to what kind of law I wanted to practice were completely wrong. In law school, I shied away from litigation, thinking that I would not like it and would not be good at it. However, when I had the wonderful opportunity to clerk for state court judge (my only experience to date in state court), I observed litigation first hand and thought it would be fun and engaging. Nevertheless, after my clerkship was over, I spent the first year and a half of my career doing work that did not involve litigation. During that time, my interest in litigation was again piqued when I realized that the work I was doing (drafting opinions on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs granting or denying benefits to veterans) was being defended by appellate litigation attorneys in federal courts of appeals. When an opportunity arose to be one of those attorneys, I jumped at it and have never looked back. In addition to not being sure whether I wanted to be a litigator, I was also unsure about the subject matter that I would focus on as a lawyer when I first got out of law school. That did not become clear until I took my first job at Veterans Affairs where I worked on veterans' healthcare issues. Since then, I have been focused on a variety of different topics that address, directly or indirectly, public healthcare issues. Over 10 of my 15 years as a practicing lawyer have involved public service at the Departments of Justice and Veterans Affairs and the Federal Trade Commission. Public service is tremendously rewarding because you have a direct impact on public policy and the public directly. It is tremendously gratifying to work on behalf of your fellow citizens and the amazing country in which we live. I feel like it is my duty to give back to my country which has given me so much. In my current job, many of the settlements I reach with companies result in the FTC giving money back to consumers for what they spent on products that don't work. I have received calls and letters from consumers thanking me for doing this.

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?

I find it hard to identify downsides in the area of law in which I practice. As I noted earlier, it is tremendously gratifying to be involved in public service. Also, unlike the private practice of law, the demands on your time are not quite as stringent. While there are times when your work takes precedence over everything else in your life (litigation), it is much easier in government, or at least where I work, to have a viable work-life balance most of the time. In fact, it is encouraged.

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

Think long and hard about whether you want to be a lawyer. Do your "due diligence." There are too many lawyers in this country, and many of them are unhappy. Being a lawyer is not glamorous or easy. It involves painstaking, detail-oriented work, and it takes a particular mindset to do it well. If you want to be a lawyer, learn all you can about it before you commit to law school. Take courses in college to understand how the American legal system works; see if you can audit or just sit in on some classes in a law school. Try to find internships before law school at law firms or other places where law is practiced (courthouses, companies' legal departments) so that you can see what lawyers do. Law school is very expensive, student law school debt is rising, and lawyer jobs are becoming harder to find. Therefore, don't go to law school unless you are absolutely sure it's what you want to do. If you do decide to become a lawyer, give serious consideration to spending all or a significant part of your career in public service.

#### Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about working at the FTC or job opportunities at the FTC or have additional questions for Mr. Fortsch, you may contact him directly at 202.326.3617 or [gfortsch@ftc.gov](mailto:gfortsch@ftc.gov).

#### 5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Insider's Scoop: JHU Alums in Law School

Location: Maryland 114

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Time: 5:30 to 6:30pm

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

Upcoming LSAT Administration for 2010

Location: On Campus -- Hodson 110 (tentative). Check with LSDAS for definitive and additional testing locations.

Date: Monday, June 7, 2010

Time: Registration begins at 12:30a - consult with LSDAS for all controlling details

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David Verrier, Ph.D., Director, Pre-Health Advisor

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The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:

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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.