



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

Best viewed in HTML

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Friday, October 9, 2015

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

This webinar is geared toward current or future law school applicants. Try to attend!

Where Should I Apply To Law School?

Which law schools can I get in to? Will I qualify for any merit aid? Which schools are best for me if I want to work in California? Boston? Chicago? Back home in my small town? Which are best for me if I want to do public interest work? Do graduates of the law schools I'm looking at get good jobs? Law School Transparency and the Northeast Association of Pre-Law Advisors are sponsoring this webinar that will show you how to find solid answers to these questions -- and will help you think about what other questions you should be asking when you're ready to apply to law schools.

When: Tuesday, October 20th; 8 - 9:15 PM EST

To Register: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/5751154267666887681>

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Cassens Weiss, Debra. **"Which states had the greatest growth in lawyer population?"** *ABA Journal*. Web. 29 Sep. 2015.

http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/which_states_had_the_greatest_spikes_in_lawyer_population/ -- shows the growth in lawyer population by state (Florida, Utah, North Carolina, and Arizona top the list).

Hansen, Mark. **"Judge dismisses class action suit against Florida Coastal School of Law,"** *ABA Journal*. Web. 7 Oct. 2015.

http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/judge_dismisses_class_action_suit_against_florida_coastal_school_of_law/ -- "a judge has dismissed a class action suit against a

Florida law school whose alumni claimed they were misled about their job prospects after graduation...[t]he suit was the first of its kind in Florida but only one of [several such cases nationwide](#), most of which have also been dismissed.”

Hansen, Mark. "Northwestern to end accelerated JD program," *ABA Journal*. Web. 7 Oct. 2015.

<http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/northwestern-law-to-end-accelerated-jd-program/> --

“Northwestern University School of Law is pulling the plug on its accelerated JD program," due to lower than anticipated enrollment.

Gershman, Jacob. “**Court: Yoga Guru Bikram Choudhury Stretched Copyright Law Too Far**” Web. 8 Oct. 2015. <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2015/10/08/yoga-guru-stretched-copyright-law-too-far-appeals-court-rules/> -- Bikram Choudhury, who pioneered “hot yoga/Bikram yoga” in the 1990s, sued the founders of a six-year-old chain of “hot yoga” studios operating in several states for copyright infringement. A recent ninth circuit appellate decision affirmed the lower-court ruling which rejected the claim.

3. OPPORTUNITY: LEGAL INTERN (FAMILY LAW), DC VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

The DC Volunteers Lawyers Project (DCVLP) is searching for a current college student to join their staff of lawyers and administrators for a full or part-time internship in Washington, DC. If you are interested in working at an established legal non-profit, this could be the internship for you! In this role, you'll have the opportunity to work directly with lawyers and contribute to helping low-income DC residents with their legal needs.

DC Volunteer Lawyers Project creates, supports, and utilizes a network of volunteer lawyers to provide high-quality, pro bono legal services to low-income individuals in the District of Columbia who are domestic violence victims, at-risk children, or have other urgent family law needs. Please see their website (www.dcvlp.org) for more information on the organization and the services they provide.

Internship Responsibilities

- Attending court hearings at the D.C. Superior Court, and providing legal and administrative support to the supervising and volunteer attorneys.
- Assisting in the case administration of Guardian ad Litem and Domestic Violence matters, including court document management.
- Any additional projects as assigned

Requirements

- Minimum commitment of 10-15 hours per week
- Availability to travel to and from DCVLP's office and the DC Superior Court
- Keen attention to detail and strong organizational, computer, and writing skills
- Positive attitude and ability to deal with sensitive issues

This internship will be un-paid; however DCVLP may be able to assist you in obtaining academic credit if provided with the required documents. The internship start date is January 11, 2016, the end date is May 6, 2016.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please email your cover letter and resume **by Friday, November 6th** to Mary Ryan at mryan@dclvp.org.

For more information, and to see the complete listing, visit:

<http://www.idealists.org/view/internship/DNz4wMNj2Kh4/>

4. INTERVIEW: MIKAELA DEALISSIA (JHU '14), NYU SCHOOL OF LAW 2L

Mikaela Dealissia graduated with honors from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in 2014, having majored in International Studies and double minored in Entrepreneurship & Management and Italian. While at JHU, she studied abroad in Rome, Italy during the Fall of her junior year. Mikaela's work related experiences while in college include a legal internship with the Weinstein Company and two summers as a paralegal at Proskauer Rose. Mikaela went straight from undergraduate to New York University School of Law (NYU Law).

Now a second year at NYU Law, Mikaela is a Staff Editor for the *Journal of Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law* and a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship, a partial tuition scholarship based in part on academic merit. This past summer of 2015, Mikaela returned to Proskauer Rose as a Summer Associate.

Questions:

Describe a typical day as a law student at NYU Law.

I think my typical day may vary from other law students at NYU Law, however, how each student goes about their day is a matter of personal preference. I prefer to view law school as a job. I wake up at 8am and get to school at 9am, whether I have class at that time or not. Depending on my schedule, I will usually go to my first class, do my reading, take a lunch break with my friends, go to my second class, do some more of my reading and leave for the day anywhere between 5pm and 8pm and then head to the school gym. The time I am leaving depends on my workload that week, along with my social life. As a 1L, this schedule definitely changed as finals approached (about 6 weeks before finals period) and during finals period. I would stay later in the library, spend some of my time reading, some time outlining, and some time taking practice tests in preparation for my exams. I would sometimes stay for dinner and take a break with friends to eat. Finals time also meant that this schedule extended to the weekends.

Some other students may schedule their days differently -- choosing to sleep in, work out, run errands, etc. during the morning and/or afternoon while getting their reading done later in the evening or on weekends.

To date, what has been your favorite law school class, and why? How have you been choosing classes after your first year of law school?

My favorite law school class, to my surprise, has been Civil Procedure. I had an amazing professor who was able to take a subject that is truthfully quite dry, and not a topic I am particularly interested in, and make every class exciting and interesting. He constantly kept us on our toes without being overly intimidating and while also truly allowing us to absorb the material.

For this year, I chose my classes based on a combination of what requirements I still needed to complete, my personal interests, and recommendations from 2Ls, 3Ls and past graduates. I definitely wanted to get my requirements out of the way, and then fill the rest of my semester with classes on topics I find interesting and also think will be useful once I begin working at a firm. From there, I sought out 2Ls and 3Ls that have similar interests to me to find out which professors and classes they found to be the best. I also am in a scholarship program through which certain professors act as advisors in the class selection process, which was also very helpful.

What made you choose NYU Law? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school?

I chose NYU Law because I knew I wanted to be in New York for law school and my career (for personal reasons). I applied early decision to NYU, and also applied to Columbia, so once I was accepted to NYU, I withdrew my application from Columbia. They are both amazing schools, and I know I would have been more than happy to attend either, but I chose to commit to NYU early because of the location (downtown vs. Columbia uptown), and I had also heard and spoken to people about how the atmosphere at NYU was a little less competitive. It's definitely been an amazing school for me so far! If you are looking to work in New York City full-time after law school it's definitely helpful to go to school in New York City but not necessary by any means.

I think the primary cons are the financial and the emotional/psychological commitments that need to be made to attend law school. Obviously, financially, law school is a huge commitment, and I would strongly recommend knowing you want to be a lawyer/get a law degree before applying. That also should be true because the workload is not light by any means and is really challenging. If you don't have the motivation to do the work and the desire to succeed (and an underlying interest in the law), it will be a very difficult experience.

The main pro of attending law school is becoming a lawyer! For me that was something I definitely knew I wanted to do, and I still couldn't be more excited about it. I've really enjoyed my classes and meeting people with similar interests.

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

I had an internship in the legal department of The Weinstein Company, a movie production company, which confirmed my interest in becoming a lawyer. The lawyers there recommended I try to get firm experience before committing to law school (which I also definitely recommend if you are looking to work at a big firm after graduation), but it isn't so easy to get. I spent a summer at a big law firm before deciding I definitely wanted to go straight through to law school. I knew I was ready to commit -- I didn't need more time to decide and wasn't interested in taking a few years off to work.

At Hopkins, I took some law-related classes (I did a business law concentration within the Entrepreneurship & Management minor), and was also a member of the pre-law society. The classes were definitely interesting and once in a while a topic or case will come up in my law school classes. The pre-law society was great to help me meet people with similar interests who could give me advice and guidance throughout the process.

I think the combination of these things strengthened my application by portraying my interest and dedication to pursuing a legal career, despite not having taken time off to work in a legal related field. My advice would be that as early on as you know you want to go to law school, do any legal related internships/extra-curricular activities you can find -- it definitely can't hurt! [Not to say that there aren't amazing law school candidates who come from completely non-legal related backgrounds -- they make up a large percentage of the class!]

What did you pursue during your interim year(s)/before beginning law school, while in law school and during your law school summer(s)? How did you go about researching these opportunities?

During my interim summer before beginning law school I went back to the big law firm I had interned at the summer before, which ended up being a great experience because the attorneys were already comfortable with me so I was able to get much more substantive work. During my law school summer, I went back to this firm again, this time as a summer associate, which is not a common job for 1L students. Many people choose to do non-firm jobs their 1L summer, because they want to try other things they are interested in and because the spaces are very limited. Because I had really enjoyed my time at the firm, I thought it would be a great opportunity to go back as a summer associate rather than an intern -- and it was an amazing experience! While waiting on hearing from the firm, I also applied to other big and smaller firms, as well as in-house legal department internships, which I found through online research and with the help of the Office of Career Services.

How would you compare the reality of law school and the ensuing job search to the picture you had of it while an undergraduate?

I think the reality of law school and the ensuing job search are very close to the picture I had of it while an undergraduate. It's a LOT of reading cases, and reading in general, and you are constantly surrounded by extremely intelligent and interesting students and professors. The work is very challenging and time-consuming (especially during finals), and exams can be very scary. However, if you work hard and excel, the job search becomes

much less intimidating. The job search is pretty much as dependent on grades and the law school you come from as people say it is. So, the best time to work the hardest is on the LSAT and during 1L exams. But beyond that, great interview skills can truly change things for people that aren't as successful during their 1L year.

Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in pursuing law school and a career in law given your experience in today's legal market and now as a current law student?

My best piece of advice would be to be as sure as possible that law school is the right choice for you. Again, it's a huge commitment both financially and psychologically, and it really requires a person who truly wants to succeed in becoming a lawyer. If you aren't sure, there is no harm in waiting a few years to either think about it or to get work experience in a legal field you are interested in to make sure it is what you are looking to do for the rest of your life. Once you make that decision, or if you have already, I think the next best piece of advice is to work as hard as possible on the LSAT and your grades, and to try to get as many legal-related work and school opportunities on your resume as possible.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about NYU School of Law, or have additional questions for Mikaela Dealissia you may reach her via email at: Mikaela.Dealissia@gmail.com.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Columbia Law School Information Session

Location: Sherwood Room, Levering Hall

Date: Monday, October 12, 2015

Time: 12pm to 1pm

Description: An admissions representative from Columbia Law School will present an information session and answer questions.

Personal Statement Workshop

Location: Alumni Board Room (#102), Mason Hall

Date: Monday, October 12, 2015

Time: 5pm to 6pm

Description: Admission Officers from University of Richmond School of Law, Seton Hall Law School, Tulane University Law School, and UC Hastings College of Law will take a workshop-style look at the personal statement, with multiple examples for attendees to read. Obtain suggestions and tips on how to draft your best personal statement, and learn more about this "sleeper" in the admissions process!

Baltimore Regional Law Fair

Hosted by the University of Baltimore School of Law

Location: John and Frances Angelos Law Center, 1401 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Date: Tuesday, October 13

Time: Admissions Panel -- 6pm; Law Fair -- 6:30 to 8pm

Description: An anticipated 70+ law schools from across the country -- from California to Massachusetts -- will be represented at the Baltimore Regional Law Fair. No R.S.V.P. required -- walk-ins welcome. For more information, including a list of participating law schools, visit http://law.ubalt.edu/admissions/regional_law_fair/

Guest Speaker Laura Dunn, Victim's Rights Attorney, at the Louisiana Restaurant

Hosted by SARU

Location: Louisiana Restaurant (Fell's Point)

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Time: 7pm

Description: Laura Dunn is best known as a victim turned victim's rights attorney and founder of the nonprofit SurvJustice. In this capacity, Dunn has participated in shaping the new Violence Against Women Act and has helped countless college students file Clery and Title IX complaints. Her talk will be followed by dinner, music, and dancing. The cost for the evening is \$10.

Transportation will be provided: buses depart at 6:40pm from Barnes & Noble.

Tickets must be bought by Friday, October 9 and can be purchased at: http://jhutickets.universitytickets.com/.../event_listings.asp. See the Facebook event for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1379472425712623/>.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore Open House: Carey School of Law

Location: University of Maryland, Baltimore

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2015

Time: 8am to 3:30 pm

Description: The University of Maryland, Baltimore will be having a campus wide open house on Saturday, November 7, 2015. This is the 3rd annual event that promises to give great information about the campus community as a whole, as well as Maryland's law program, including: Faculty and Student Discussion Panels, Campus Tours, Table Talk Sessions, and Lunch. For registration and event details, visit: <http://www.umaryland.edu/OpenHouse/>. Registration Deadline: Oct. 23rd.

Upcoming LSAT Administration

Location: Visit <http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/testing-locations> for testing location information.

Date: December 5, 2015 / February 6, 2016

Time: Registration begins at 8:30 am for the October exam -- consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

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STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING

Ana L. Droscoski, J.D., Associate Director, Pre-Law Advisor, Pre-Dental & Pre-Med Advisor

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

Ellen Snyderman, M.S., Assistant Director, Pre-Med Advisor

Katie Cruik, M.S., Assistant Director, Pre-Med, Pre-Nursing, & Pre-Health Advisor

The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:
Carolyn Mae Krause, Administrative Coordinator, 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 410-516-4140 For students whose last name begins with M-Z, contact Mrs. Sanders.

Angie Decker, Office Manager, decker@jhu.edu

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

Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.
Associate Director
Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

Johns Hopkins University
Garland Hall Suite 300
3400 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218
Tel: 410.516.4140
Fax: 410.516.4040
Skype: preprof_adrosco1
email: adrosco1@jhu.edu
web.jhu.edu/prepro