



The Pre-Law e-Newsletter from Pre-Professional Programs & Advising
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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

For those of you that took the October 2015 LSAT, you should be receiving your scores by October 28. If you are considering taking it again, you may have noticed that the regular registration deadline for the December 2015 LSAT is October 23 -- before you are scheduled to receive the October LSAT score.

Please note that if you miss the regular registration deadline for the December LSAT because you were waiting for your October LSAT score, upon request, you are eligible for a refund of the late fee incurred during the late registration period.

To receive a refund after you have registered for the December test, you can submit a written request for a refund of the late fee **within 4 days after the late registration deadline**. Please note that late fee refunds will be issued only to those who received a valid score for the October administration. Refunds will not be issued to those who were absent, cancelled their score, or were dismissed from the test.

Requests can be emailed to lsacrefunds@lsac.org and registrants should insert Late Fee Refund in the subject line of the email.

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Rosen, Ellen. "**Diversity Fellowship Programs Are on the Rise.**" *Bloomberg BNA*. Web. 13 Oct. 2015. <https://bol.bna.com/diversity-fellowship-programs-are-on-the-rise/>. -- a new diversity fellowship program announced this week by K&L Gates and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, a program that will offer a full, three-year

scholarship as well as a paid summer associate position at the firm after both the first and second years of law school.

Randazzo, Sara. “**Jobless Grads Who Sued Law Schools Find More Rejection in Court.**” *The Wall Street Journal’s Law Blog*. Web. 15 Oct. 2015. <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2015/10/15/jobless-grads-who-sued-law-schools-find-more-rejection-in-court/>

Gershman, Jacob. “**Subway ‘Footlong’ Settlement Short on Dough.**” *The Wall Street Journal: Law Blog*. Web. 20 Oct. 2015. <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2015/10/20/subway-footlong-settlement-short-on-dough/> -- class action brought over Subway sandwiches being less than the advertised 12 and 6 inches, reached a preliminary settlement that will result in the implementation of a number of quality-control measures, including having the bread regularly measured to ensure that the footlong and six inch sandwiches do not fall short.

3. OPPORTUNITY: CHILD DEVELOPMENT INTERNSHIP, BALTIMORE CHILD ABUSE CENTER

For those interested in criminal law, juvenile defense, or family law, this internship may be of interest:

The Baltimore Child Abuse Center seeks child development-informed interns for a new, on-site program. This internship would involve developing a program for children who come to the center for forensic interviews while they are in the waiting room. The program would involve calming activities, ways of engaging and relaxing the child, etc.

Interns should have a strong knowledge of child development as well as trauma. The center is open 9am-7pm each day, and the internship can be for as many hours as the interns would like. This is an unpaid position.

A licensed social worker will oversee the interns. For more information, contact Iona Rudisill: by telephone at 443.923.7010 or email at IRudisill@bcaci.org.

4. INTERVIEW: CONNIE VOGELMANN (JHU ‘10), Attorney Advisor at the Administrative Conference of the United States

Connie Vogelmann is an Attorney Advisor at the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS), a small government agency dedicated to improving the federal administrative process. The Conference is a public-private partnership made up of representatives from government, the private sector, and academia, and is supported by a small staff. The Conference provides non-partisan expert advice and recommendations for improvement of federal agency procedures.

Connie serves as the Staff Counsel to the Committee on Collaborative Governance, and is also serving as the temporary Staff Counsel to the Committee on Regulation. In her job at

ACUS, she has served as a project manager, researcher, and writer, and has worked on projects for a number of agencies, including the Social Security Administration.

In 2014, Connie graduated from joint degree program at Yale, receiving a J.D. from Yale Law School and a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. While at Yale, Connie took full opportunity of her membership in both schools, serving as a teaching fellow for a number of undergraduate classes and participating in several clinics. During her clinical research, she was able to travel to, and conduct research in, Greece and Palau.

Connie graduated from Johns Hopkins in 2010, and received a BA in Behavioral Biology. She held leadership positions in a number of clubs on campus, including the College Democrats and the Students for Environmental Action. During her junior year of college, Connie participated in a study abroad program entitled “Rethinking Globalization: Nature, Culture, Justice.” Through that program, she travelled to Tanzania, India, New Zealand, and Mexico, and received an “on the ground” education in those countries.

Questions

Describe a day in the life of an Attorney Advisor.

My primary job is to conduct legal research – but that presents a narrow portrait of what I do. On any given day, I may be developing my own research question or project, or investigating an issue at the request of one of our members. I may be managing a project and working with an outside consultant or some of our interns. I may be meeting with representatives from other government agencies or the private sector, to try to identify, and find solutions for, problems in administrative law.

Twice a year, the Administrative Conference holds a plenary session, our main event. During each plenary, we gather many of our members – experts in administrative law from government, academia, non-profits, and business – to discuss, and ultimately vote upon, recommendations that have been developed over the past months by the Conference. The recommendations seek to provide guidance to administrative agencies to help them govern more effectively and efficiently. The months leading up to the plenary session can be hectic, as we try to finish research projects, work with Conference members to produce recommendations, and handle the logistics of bringing the group together.

What did you pursue during your law school summers and before beginning your current position? How did you go about researching these opportunities?

My internships all had a legal research bent. Because I did a joint degree program with Yale Law School and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, I had three summers during my graduate studies. My first and second summers I worked for environmental nonprofits (Oceana and the Environmental Defense Fund), and the third summer I worked for the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy.

The first summer (at Oceana), I found the opportunity through my school's summer job resources. My second and third summers, I found my positions by contacting professionals with whom I wanted to work, and asking whether they could use the help. If your school offers summer funding, this can be a great opportunity; an awful lot of places will say "yes," if you offer free assistance!

What initially attracted you to your current field?

Both the complexity and the opportunity to make a difference. Many see administrative law as "dry," but it's really not – at least not once you get underneath the surface. Administrative agencies, like the EPA or FDA, have huge impacts on our daily lives, and administrative law is often understudied. At ACUS, by working to help streamline administrative processes at agencies, we can try to make a difference for the millions (yes millions) of Americans who interact with agencies each year.

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

Law school was a lot like everyone said it would be – it's a lot of work, and I highly recommend you take a gap year between undergrad and law school. It's easy to get burned out. Sooner or later, you'll have a law professor who follows the old school Socratic method of teaching, and it can be rough – especially if you're on the quieter or more introspected end of the spectrum. But going into law school with your eyes wide open makes a big difference. Don't go to law school because you don't know what else to do, or because you think it will be fun (it probably won't be). Go to law school because of where it will lead you.

The job search, when I was going through the experience, was harder than I had expected. Especially going to a very good law school, I was led to believe that a job would just about fall in my lap by the beginning of my 3L year. This may be still be true if you aim to work for a law firm (though I doubt it). If you decide to pursue a less traditional path – be it government or a nonprofit – it might take you some time to find something. Get started early, but don't be discouraged. The legal climate isn't as good as it once was, but it's recovering.

What was your favorite law school class, and why? How did you go about choosing classes after your first year of law school?

My favorite class was probably Legislation. The professor was fantastic: he was new to teaching and energetic, and clearly had a passion for teaching. He would plan out his lessons ahead of time down to the minute, and taught us a lot of intricacies of how Congress worked. That in turn helped me better understand my other classes – including Administrative Law and Environmental law.

I took classes almost purely based on subject matter. I was interested in policy, and environmental and administrative law. This led to a solid, if a bit narrow, experience in law school. If you have a shopping period, it is definitely worth it to sit in on several more

classes than you plan to take. I found that how much I enjoyed my classes in law school rested about 80% with the professor (I'm very much not a fan of the Socratic method), and only 20% with the subject matter (this is probably somewhat hyperbolic, but you get the idea).

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 went to Hopkins and studied biology (clearly an unusual path at Hopkins), and only gradually realized a career in science probably wasn't for me. I did a study abroad program my junior year, and traveled around the world – to Tanzania, India, New Zealand, and Mexico. The trip expanded my world-view and helped me believe that an interdisciplinary path is the way of the future, and the right path for me.

Also, a good LSAT score is key. The test stinks (and rewards students with the peculiar skill of being good test takers), but you *can* study for the exam, and greatly improve your score. Just make sure to start early! I didn't take a class, but I did buy several books, and took every practice test I could get my hands on. It was almost a full time job, but worth it. Make sure you take the exam in September/October, so if things don't go your way, you have another shot.

What made you choose Yale Law and did it meet your expectations? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school, and, particularly, Yale Law?

It's Yale. It's certainly not right for everyone, but in general you need a pretty good reason to go somewhere else. In addition to a brilliant (if intimidating) student body and world-class professors, your career will be significantly boosted by Yale's reputation. Also, their loan repayment program is fantastic.

The primary cons of law school are that it's a lot of work, and it's expensive. Unlike in the past, you're really not guaranteed to come out financially on top if you go to law school – you have to really want to go into the legal profession. You're signing up for three more years of school (very difficult school), and that's three more years you're *not* making an income or (possibly) starting a family.

But it's also an incredible opportunity, too. You'll likely have your views challenged and mind expanded. More than the knowledge you'll gain, you'll learn a new way to analyze and see the world, and that's valuable in any field.

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 an attorney?

As I said above, the legal profession isn't the "sure bet" that it was a decade ago, so don't go in expecting to be barraged by high paying law firm offers your final year of law school.

With that in mind, when you're deciding on law school, don't be too flip about costs. Your loan payments once you graduate may be well over \$1,000 per month. Think ahead to whether, and how, you're going to pay those loans. If you're set on the law firm life, then these costs may be no problem. But if you see a different career path, look into the loan repayment programs at the schools you're applying to (and read the fine print!), and consider going to a lower ranked school with a larger scholarship. Your future self will thank you for it.

And, take a year "off" before you go to law school. Everyone told me to do it, and I ignored them. It was a bad idea, and I burned myself out very badly by my final year of school. Please, do yourself a favor and at least consider taking a year away.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about Yale Law School, being an Attorney Advisor at the Administrative Conference of the United States, or have additional questions for Connie Vogelmann, you may reach her via email at clvogelmann@gmail.com.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yale Law School (YLS) Informational Webinar

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2015

Time: 12:00-1:00 PM ET

Description: Nick Everdell, Director of Recruitment, will be on hand to answer questions about legal education, the application process, and life at Yale Law School.

Advance registration is required. To register for this event, please visit: law-yale.adobeconnect.com/yys15-3/event/event_info.html.

This event is open to current students, alumni, and staff of Fordham, Georgetown, JHU, UVA, W&L, W&M. No special computer hardware or software is required to attend the webinar—just a modern web browser and a recent version of the Adobe Flash or Adobe Connect plug-ins. After you register, you will be sent a link through which you can test your computer and Internet connection prior to the event. If you are not able to join us at the above date and time, this webinar will be recorded and made available to individuals who registered for the event.

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 December 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 Cruitt, 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](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 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](mailto:adrosco1@jhu.edu)  
web.jhu.edu/prepro