



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

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Friday, February 26, 2016

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Law school is an investment of your time, finances and hard work. It is important that you do your due diligence before making said investment. Whether you are applying to law school this cycle or considering applying in the future, it is important to consider the financial consequences of a law school education. The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) has a variety of information regarding financing a law school education. You can find the discussion and details at the following link: <http://www.lsac.org/jd/financing-law-school/financial-aid-overview>

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Sloan, Karen. **“Nationalized Bar Exam Endorsed by ABA.”** *The National Law Journal*. Web. 9 Feb. 2016.

<http://www.nationallawjournal.com/id=1202749219697/Nationalized-Bar-Exam-Endorsed-by-ABA#ixzz41ICKTsou> -- reports that the ABA House of Delegates has adopted a resolution urging states to adopt the uniform bar exam.

Hansen, Mark. **"ABA committee recommends tougher, simpler bar passage accreditation standard."** *ABA Journal*. Web. 16 Feb. 2016.

http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/aba_committee_recommends_tougher_simpler_bar_passage_accreditation_requirement/ -- reports that the ABA's Bar Standards Review Committee has recommended a new standard that would require law schools to show that 75% of its graduates passed the bar within two years of graduation.

Stratford, Michael. **“New Criteria for Debt Relief.”** *Inside Higher Ed*. Web. 17 Feb. 2016.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/02/17/us-plan-would-cancel-federal-loans-borrowers-misled-their-colleges> -- reports that "the Obama administration

is proposing new standards for when the federal government will forgive student loans of borrowers who say they were victimized by their college or university."

Randazzo, Sara. "Move Over LSAT, Here Comes the GRE." *The Wall Street Journal: Law Blog*. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2016/02/22/move-over-lsat-here-comes-the-gre/> -- "The University of Arizona College of Law's recent decision to ease up on the LSAT and let prospective students apply with a GRE score...has caused some consternation in the tightly regimented world of law school admissions."

3. OPPORTUNITY: LEGAL ASSISTANT, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (WASHINGTON, DC)

If you are graduating this Spring 2016 and are looking for a gap year opportunity, consider the following position:

Job Title: Legal Assistant (OA) (Recent Graduate) [1634590]

Department: Department Of Justice

Agency: Offices, Boards and Divisions

Hiring Organization: Environment and Natural Resources Division

Job Announcement Number: ENRD-16-031-EXC

This position is located in the Environmental Crimes Section (ECS) of the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD). The Environmental Crimes Section is responsible for prosecuting individuals and corporations that have violated laws designed to protect the environment and/or unlawfully covered up those violations. It is at the forefront in changing industry and public awareness to recognize that environmental violations are serious infractions that transgress basic interests and values. The Section works closely with criminal investigators for the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other law enforcement agencies in prosecuting criminal violations of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as well as other federal statutes. In addition, the Section prosecutes criminal cases under a number of federal wildlife laws, including the Lacey Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Endangered Species Act. These cases, handled in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries Enforcement (National Marine Fisheries Service), involve smuggling and illegal trafficking in protected wildlife, illegal take of protected species, and hunting offenses.

DUTIES:

If selected for this position, you will join a well-respected team of Legal Assistants who are responsible for performing a wide range of administrative and legal support tasks:

- Reviewing and analyzing case materials to become familiar with the case or matter.
- Creating and maintaining litigation case files of pleadings, discovery documents, and correspondence.
- Organizing and maintaining legal and other reference materials.

- Utilizing word processing software including Microsoft Word, Excel, and Adobe Acrobat to draft, edit, and prepare a variety of routine documents and correspondence.
- Utilizing automated legal databases, including Relativity, Westlaw, Lexis, to conduct searches for, or retrieve, legal documents, court cases, and statutory references.
- Retrieving, organizing, and assembling trial exhibits, affidavits, legal documents, briefing books, and other case materials to prepare for trials or other litigation projects.
- Providing substantive information regarding Section and Division policies and procedures.
- Arranging travel reservations; preparing and completing necessary travel vouchers and coordinating with appropriate offices to ensure prompt payment.

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- You must be a U.S. Citizen or National.
- You must complete a background investigation.
- Selective Service Registration is required. See <http://www.sss.gov>
- You must meet the RECENT GRADUATES Program Requirements.
- If selected, you must sign a Student Pathways Program agreement.

DEADLINE: Monday, March 7, 2016

For additional details and to apply, visit:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/430536100/>

4. INTERVIEW: NICK ZAZZI, EDUCATION CONSULTANT, APP-ARK (SHANGHAI, CHINA)

Nick Zazzi is currently an Education Consultant at App-Ark, an education consulting agency in Shanghai, China. He guides prospective applicants through the admissions process, assisting in areas such as school selection, essay critique, and interview preparation. He spent the summer of his junior year and winter of his senior year also living in the city.

After transferring from SUNY Orange (2013), a community college located in Middletown, NY, Nick joined JHU as a junior, graduating in 2015 with general honors in International Studies and East Asian Studies. During his community college years, Nick served as the chapter president of Phi Theta Kappa honors society and was a member of the Honors Advisory Board. After coming to Hopkins, Nick not only spent a summer at East China Normal University in Shanghai, where he completed an intensive Mandarin program, but also the following winter interned at WABC: an NGO devoted to art therapy for those with mental disabilities in Shanghai.

In addition to studying Mandarin and spending time abroad, Nick's interests also include traveling, mountain climbing, and writing. He looks forward to applying to law school in the next application/2018 cycle.

Questions

Describe a day in the life of an Education Consultant.

Given the cyclical nature of admissions, a typical day of an Education Consultant varies significantly based upon the time of year. From brainstorming topics with students and tutoring in the summer, to finalizing the application process in late autumn, and meeting juniors looking for summer-school in the spring, both the volume and complexity of the work shifts constantly.

May and June mark the beginning of the application season, as it's the optimal time for students to perfect their personal statements. After meeting each of my twelve students, getting to know them well over tea at a nearby cafe, I guide them through the brainstorming process to ensure they present themselves accurately and effectively to the admissions offices. This involves reading through their initial drafts and providing them with insightful feedback as they continue to develop their work.

In addition, the lulls of the summer provide consultants with an opportunity to run our own workshops, in which we can engage potential new clients. During this past summer, I ran a weekend long workshop on memoirs while tutoring a few rising juniors on research and composition methods. Towards the end of the summer, each consultant came together and helped run a comprehensive writing camp that incorporated elements of both academic and creative writing, with a focus around college applications.

The autumn-winter timeframe is somewhat chaotic; application deadlines seem to sprout up each week. As a consultant, it's my responsibility to ensure that each of my students completes every essay, both optional and required, for their chosen schools. I guide them through the process, providing feedback similar to the personal statement. This season provides us an opportunity to be particularly helpful, as we each have unique perspectives and insights on different institutions which we can share with our students.

One of the many aspects of the work I enjoy is when I conduct mock-interviews. As many schools request or leave an option for an interview, it's imperative that each pupil is prepared and confident in their ability to present their strengths and personality. I spend my time testing the students, asking questions they will be most likely to encounter, and advising them on areas needing improvement.

Lastly, the spring is an exciting opportunity to meet with new rising seniors as my former students and I await application results. With the rising seniors, I assist them in selecting and applying to different summer-school programs, while helping them build important writing skills that will be crucial for the applications in the following year.

This position provides me with a platform to utilize a diverse skill-set, in an environment that can be somewhat unpredictable at times. I hope that many of the experiences I have had here, especially when it comes to aspects like handling clients and working under strict deadlines, transfer well into the field of law.

What made you choose this particular position and has it met your expectations?

Having spent two summers and one winter in China during my undergraduate study at JHU, I felt a strong inclination to return to Shanghai after graduation. As an International Studies/East Asian Studies double-major, I wanted to spend more time overseas and hone my Mandarin fluency. With regards to this position in particular, I saw it as a chance to interact with students aspiring to come abroad, most often for the first time, and help them prepare for the cultural and academic differences that they will soon encounter. For this reason, I jumped at this opportunity.

With regards to meeting my expectations, it's safe to say that they have been exceeded. Each day provides me not only with new and exciting experiences, but also a chance to grow. Assisting high school seniors, many of whom may procrastinate or fail to be receptive to constructive criticism, is certainly a set of challenges in itself. However, it's taught me many valuable lessons not only in patience, but also in perspective. Simultaneously, Shanghai is a city undergoing rapid changes almost daily; it can be both a struggle and a privilege to live in this environment. Overall, it's been an amazing and rewarding experience.

Did you pursue anything else during your interim years before beginning law school? How did you go about researching each of these opportunities?

Nothing really.

What do you think you have gained from the experiences and from taking time off before law school? Given the choice, would you do it again?

Choosing to take time off before law school was one of the best decisions I have ever made. This experience has allowed me to explore firsthand a culture upon which I had focused so much of my studies. In addition to practical aspects like having more time to study Mandarin and practice the LSAT, time off has provided me another chance for reflection and self-improvement.

More specifically, given the nature of my work, I have learned how to better give and receive criticism in an effective manner. My job also requires me to handle over a dozen clients at a time, many of whom often have overlapping deadlines and make unexpected changes with minimal notice. This has helped me learn to excel and thrive in such a work setting. Finally, reading is an integral part of my duties and I have learned to become not only a more detailed reader, but also have increased my reading speed immensely. Given these results, I would absolutely chose this path again.

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

As a transfer student at JHU, my experience in this regard may be somewhat atypical. What first truly sparked my interest in law was attending a Criminal Law class at my local community college my freshman year. I built upon this by choosing to write an honors thesis my sophomore year on the “stand your ground” self-defense statutes that have been on the rise in the recent decade. These two experiences laid the foundation for my interest in law.

Engaging in rigorous coursework at JHU, particularly those which required heavy reading and writing assignments, has undoubtedly made me a stronger applicant. Interning abroad (in Shanghai) the winter of my junior year was also helpful, providing me with more international and professional experience.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being an Educational Consultant at APP-ARK, or have additional questions for Nick Zazzi, you may reach him via email at nzazzi@gmail.com.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming LSAT Administration

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

Date: June 6, 2016

Time: Registration begins at 12:30 pm for the June 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](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  
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Please visit our website <http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/> for additional information.

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