



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

Many of you who are applying this cycle have already started hearing from law schools, receiving acceptances and some have even received monetary offers. Please note that the admissions process for both acceptances and monetary offers is rolling and will likely last well into the spring, and possibly the summer. So try not to worry if you have not heard anything yet. Also keep in mind that monetary offers can be negotiated. If you wish to discuss any of this, and perhaps develop a strategy, please schedule an appointment with me.

Stay warm this weekend!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Hansen, Mark. **"Proposal to lift ban on academic credit for paid externships draws heavy opposition."** *ABA Journal*. Web. 29 Jan. 2016. <http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/proposal-to-lift-ban-on-academic-credit-for-paid-externships-draws-oppositi/> -- discusses a renewed proposal to lift the ban (the current ABA accreditation standard) on students receiving academic credit for paid externships.

Gershman, Jacob. **"Georgetown Law Tells Students No Political Campaigning on Campus."** *The Wall Street Journal: Law Blog*. Web. 3 Feb. 2016. <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2016/02/03/georgetown-law-tells-students-no-political-campaigning-on-campus/> -- "Georgetown University Law Center is forbidding students supporting Sen. Bernie Sanders to display posters or hand out campaign literature...on school property...;" all in an effort to: "make sure the law school is complying with federal

tax rules governing non-profit institutions of higher education restricting political activity.”

Gershman, Jacob. “**American Bar Association Wants Cameras Inside Supreme Court.**” *The Wall Street Journal: Law Blog*. Web. 9 Feb. 2016. <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2016/02/09/american-bar-association-wants-cameras-inside-supreme-court/> -- “A new resolution adopted by the American Bar Association urges the nation’s highest court to “record and make available video recordings of its oral arguments.”

3. OPPORTUNITY: CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT, U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

For those of you looking for a gap year opportunity commencing this summer, consider this:

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency within the Executive branch. OSC has four major responsibilities:

- Investigating allegations of prohibited personnel practices including retaliation for whistleblowing, certain forms of discrimination including sexual orientation discrimination, and improper hiring practices;
- Receiving and evaluating disclosures of wrongdoing in the federal government;
- Providing advisory opinions on and enforcing the Hatch Act (regarding prohibited political activity); and,
- Enforcing the reemployment rights of returning service members and reservists under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

Position Description:

The Confidential Assistant to the Special Counsel is a Schedule C political appointee within the Immediate Office of the Special Counsel (IOSC). The Confidential Assistant provides administrative support and assistance on a wide range of issues related to the needs of the Special Counsel and the Office of Special Counsel. Many of the issues are complex, controversial, and highly confidential.

Major Duties:

Composes correspondence, reports, and documents on behalf of the Special Counsel. Ensures the appropriate style, tone, and format are used. Edits and proofreads correspondence and other documents issued and sent under the authority of the Special Counsel or Principal Deputy Special Counsel, including letters to agency heads, reports to Congress, and agency directives.

Maintains a complex schedule of events and meetings for the Special Counsel and Principal Deputy Special Counsel, scheduling meetings, briefings, and speaking

engagements. Prior to meetings and/or events, conducts research if needed and assures principals have all requisite information, case files, and/or documents related to the subject matter.

Plans itineraries and schedules travel which includes transportation, accommodations, completing and submitting travel vouchers, and notifying organizations and officials of visits.

Controls and monitors incoming and outgoing correspondence. Reviews incoming correspondence and determines the need for additional information. Ensures proper routing of correspondence to responsible OSC manager. Furnishes managers with information and instructions from the Special Counsel and Principal Deputy Special Counsel including due dates. Is responsible for the follow up on correspondence, projects and tasks ascertaining the status and assuring the Special Counsel is aware of any problems or issues.

Coordinates work with all OSC offices and units, ensuring practices and procedures are consistent with those of the IOSC. Provides instructions on administrative procedures, office policy, and correspondence requirements to program units.

Screens calls and visitors, many of whom are high ranking officials from the White House, Senate, Congress, federal agencies, as well as the public. Completes administrative functions involving established policy and/or practice.

In addition, the incumbent is responsible for providing data and/or reports as requested by the Special Counsel and Congress. This may include requesting and compiling information from various OSC offices or units and organizing the information in a professional manner.

Skills and Requirements:

- Exceptional writing and editing skills and strong attention to detail
- Strong interpersonal and customer service skills and phone etiquette
- Flexibility and problem-solving abilities
- Familiarity with federal government agencies and Congress
- Must be a U.S. citizen or national
- Must be able to obtain and maintain a security clearance

Start Date:

June or July 2016.

Deadline to Apply: March 1, 2016.

To Apply:

This job is ideal for recent college graduates with one to two years of experience (including internship experience). Candidates with a demonstrated interest in employment law, civil rights law, or other public interest work are preferred.

To apply, please email a resume, cover letter, transcript, and writing sample no longer than five pages, which may be an excerpt from a longer paper, to John Lapin at jlapin@osc.gov by March 1, 2016.

4. INTERVIEW: SEAN COLEMAN, FELONY TRIAL LAWYER, MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, BALTIMORE CITY

Sean Coleman is a felony trial lawyer with the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in Baltimore City. He has worked with the office since 1999 and has been a felony trial lawyer since March 2004.

Prior to working in felony, Sean worked handling bail reviews, district court cases and misdemeanor jury trial prayers. As a felony trial lawyer, Sean handles all felonies – ranging from simple narcotics cases to complex murder trials.

Sean graduated with a JD from the George Mason University School of Law in 1999. While in law school, he served as the publications editor of the George Mason School of Law Civil Rights Law Journal. His work experience while in law school included stints at the Arlington County Commonwealth Attorney's Office and the Alexandria, Va. Office of the Public Defender. He also worked as a law clerk with the Nature Conservancy.

Prior to law school, Sean worked as a reporter for two small-to-mid-sized daily newspapers -- the Parkersburg Sentinel and the Lynchburg News and Advance. He earned a BS in mass communications from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1992.

Sean Coleman is licensed to practice law in the state of Maryland.

Describe a day in the life of a Public Defender in Baltimore City.

One of the great things about this job is that there really isn't a typical day. I'm not a person that thrives sitting at a desk 10 hours a day and this job allows me the opportunity to try different things. A typical day could be spent at the jail, interviewing clients, or researching case law and preparing a case. Or I could spend the day in court, handling my cases or maybe bail reviews. If I'm lucky, I am in trial. I rarely have the same day back to back.

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

I used to be a journalist for a newspaper in a medium-sized town in Virginia and part of my job was covering the city courts. The lawyers looked like they were having more fun than I was at the time. And the job is fun. It's challenging and, especially in Baltimore city, chaotic at times. You are not chained to a desk, researching minutia. You deal with people

who need your help and you can occasionally change a person's life. If you tend to root for the underdog and don't mind not making a lot of money, this is the right job for you.

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 in law school?

You can carry your job with you 24/7. Even when I am not working, I am thinking about my cases. Burnout can be an issue.

Your job is to represent your client and sometimes your client is accused of doing horrific things. Sometimes judges don't pay attention to the law or the prosecutor hides the ball and neglects to provide required evidence. If you are not careful, you can become cynical and hardened.

It's also not the most financially rewarding profession. I am not complaining -- I make more than enough money. But most, if not all, of my law school classmates long ago passed me by salary-wise. If you are looking to make a lot of money, this is not the job for you.

As for the reality of the profession, I was lucky to see it up close before I went to law school. What I experienced wasn't that much different from what I expected.

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

If you really are interested in becoming a lawyer, take your time. Going to law school directly after graduation is a recipe for burnout and can be an expensive mistake.

However, if you are really interested in pursuing this career, volunteer. Find an internship. Get involved. Talk to people. Lawyers, especially trial lawyers, love to talk. A lot.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a Public Defender in Baltimore City, or have additional questions for Sean Coleman, you may reach him via email at scoleman@opd.state.md.us

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

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