



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

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Friday, March 11, 2016

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

As of **March 13, 2016**, The Law School Admission Council’s (LSAC) entire line of LSAT prep books --including *Official LSAT PrepTests®*; the *10 Actual, Official LSAT PrepTests™* series; the *Official LSAT SuperPrep®* and *SuperPrep II*; and the *Official LSAT Handbook™* -- will be available only through bookstores and online booksellers. The exception is *LSAT ItemWise®*, LSAC’s online LSAT familiarization tool, which will remain available for purchase through candidate accounts on LSAC.org.

Candidates can learn about all of LSAC’s Official LSAT prep publications on LSAC.org and are advised to purchase Official LSAT prep books from their favorite bookseller (including Amazon).

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Olson, Elizabeth. **“Law Graduate Gets Her Day in Court, Suing Law School.”** *The New York Times*. Web. 6 Mar. 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/07/business/dealbook/court-to-hear-suit-accusing-law-school-of-inflating-job-data.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&_r=0 -- in California, the first former law student case against a law school (alleging that in an effort to increase enrollment, the law school inflated the employment data of its graduates) will go to trial.

“The 2016 Go-To Law Schools.” *The National Law Journal*. Web. 7 Mar. 2016. <http://www.nationallawjournal.com/home/id=1202751508385> -- annual special report on the US law schools supplying the most associates to the nation's largest law firms, including ten special features.

Baker, Keir. “**How might a Brexit affect students' law degrees?**” *The Guardian*. Web. 11 Mar. 2016. http://www.theguardian.com/law/2016/mar/11/how-might-a-brexite-affect-students-law-degrees?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1 -- discusses potential changes to UK domestic law taught at universities if Britain exits the EU as one research study found “64.7% of UK law created between 1993 and 2014 is influenced by the EU.”

3. OPPORTUNITY: LATINO PRE-LAW DAY, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

Georgetown University Law Center will be hosting a **Latino Pre-Law Day** on **Thursday, March 31st from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM.**

The day will include several sessions designed to help anyone interested in applying to law school to craft their application and get a glimpse into what law school is like at Georgetown.

Here is the agenda for the day:

1. Breakfast and welcome address
2. Workshop with the Dean of Admissions Cornblatt on what he looks for in a top-notch application
3. Classroom observations with first-year professors
4. Campus tours of the Law Center
5. Lunch with current students and Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA) members

Registration is free and can be completed online at this link: <http://goo.gl/forms/zISMfBNIKD>. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

This event is a great opportunity for students interested in applying to law school to get advice on completing applications and to learn more about Georgetown Law.

Questions? Please contact Anabelle Dahdah, (LALSA) member, at amd324@georgetown.edu.

4. INTERVIEW: GREGORY SAMPSON, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Gregory Sampson: *Associate Judge, [District Court of Maryland, District 1, Baltimore City](#), since March 4, 2009. Judge-in-Charge of the District Eastside Courthouse from 2011 to 2013. Judge-in-Charge of the Civil Courthouse from 2013 to 2014.*

Assistant Public Defender, Baltimore City, 1985-90 (child in need of assistance division, 1985-86; juvenile division, 1986-88; misdemeanor jury trial division, 1988-90). Master in Chancery, Juvenile Division, Baltimore City Circuit Court, 1990-2009.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 27, 1960. College of William and Mary, B.A. (government), 1982. Served in the U.S. Army (captain; army commendation medal), 1982-88. University of Maryland School of Law, J.D., 1985. Admitted to Maryland Bar, 1985. Member, Maryland State Bar Association; Baltimore City Bar Association; Monumental Bar Association; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 1992-2005. Lecturer and instructor, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 1994-2003; National Bar Association, 1995, 2000; Children's Defense Fund, Judges' Leadership Council, 1998-2002; The Casey Foundation, 2007. Lecturer, Court-Appointed Special Advocates, 2002-09. Lecturer and facilitator, Maryland State Bar Professionalism Course, 2005-08. Trustee, Morning Star Baptist Church, 1993-.

Questions

Describe a day in the life of a judge.

I am a judge for The District Court for The State of Maryland sitting in Baltimore City. The jurisdiction of this court encompasses civil matters with a value under \$30,000.00, criminal matters which the legislature has deemed to be misdemeanors, petitions involving domestic violence (peace orders and protective orders), housing code violations, rent matters, and parking violations.

There are four district courthouses in Baltimore City. Although I am assigned to a specific courthouse, there is a schedule given to the judges indicating where a judge can be assigned on any particular day. If I am located at my assigned courthouse, I will arrive to work at about 8:15 am. I will then review any correspondence needing an immediate response. These items could include various motions by attorneys or litigants, or other items. If there are any items that I cannot immediately address prior to starting the court docket or there are items that require more than a cursory response, I will contact the law clerk (usually a law student or a recent law school graduate) to have the law clerk research the matter and provide me with the relevant case law so that I can address the issue later.

If I am assigned as the duty judge, I may review requests for search warrants presented by law enforcement. If the warrant request contains the requisite probable cause, I will sign the warrant request allow the search and seizure process to go forward. The duty judge is also responsible for the review of any motions not assigned to a particular judge.

The dockets (court hearings) start at 9:00. If I am presiding over a criminal docket, the State's Attorney calls the cases. If I am presiding over a civil docket, the clerk will call the cases. Whether criminal or civil, most of the cases are disposed of without the necessity of trial either by dismissal or by agreement of the parties. In criminal matters, if there is a plea agreement, I am usually asked if I will approve the agreement of the parties. If the parties go forward with the plea agreement, the defendant is advised of his rights prior to the court accepting the plea. After the plea, I render the sentence.

If there is no agreement between the parties, a trial will begin shortly thereafter. Most cases, whether they be civil or criminal will typically last less than 90 minutes. On most days of a criminal docket, I will have at maximum two trials. For the civil docket, I will have a maximum of three trials, although the typical amount is one or two trials.

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

My family had a working class background. As a result, my knowledge of various professions was very limited. I knew that I wanted to go to college and one of the professions that I thought might me interesting (based largely on television) was that of a lawyer. As a result, I set being a lawyer as a goal from a very early age.

I believe that regardless of the area of law that you practice, that it is particularly rewarding helping people resolve to issues that they might bring to 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 while in school?

There are probably downsides to every area of the practice of law. I think that for many young attorneys, they practice in areas of the law where they have no particular interest or desire even though they may be competent in those areas. Given that there are so many areas of the law in which a person can practice, I would suggest to any lawyer, but particularly a young lawyer, that they attempt to explore other areas of the law that he or she may find more satisfying.

Law school probably does not do a good job of making good lawyers. What law school does do, is to familiarize students with the language of the law and some of its procedures. Upon beginning the practice of the law, be prepared for a steep learning curve, mastering those issues that come before you and learn how to effectively present them whether in court or to your colleagues or superiors. In order to accomplish this goal, it will take a great deal of time and effort, but that effort may help you to cement your good reputation early which can carry you throughout your career.

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

The best advice that I can give you is the advice that I have given above: Be prepared to work hard and try to enjoy what you do as much as you can on a daily basis. Study any area as an undergrad where you have an interest. Law schools are interested in a having a diverse collection of students with different interests.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about being a judge, or have additional questions for Judge Gregory Sampson, you may reach him via email at Gregory.sampson@mdcourts.gov.

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**

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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.

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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