



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 10, No. 3

Friday, October 7, 2016

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Law school is a costly venture. It is an investment that requires due diligence before committing to attend. The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) has considerable information regarding financial aid on their website: <http://www.lsac.org/jd/financing-law-school/financial-aid-overview>, as does the Access Group: <http://www.accessgroup.org/current-law-graduate-professional-students>. The Access Group is a non-profit dedicated to providing financial education resources and services for students, among other things.

To learn more in person on financing a legal education, attend the Financial Aid Workshop on Tuesday, November 7 at noon in the Sherwood Room. Stephen Brown, Assistant Dean of Enrollment at Fordham University School of Law, will providing financial planning and funding advice for law school. For more details on the workshop, see Section 5 below.

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Lopez, Ian. "**Cheaper, Faster and Better? AI and the Future of the Profession.**" *Legaltech News*. Web. 26 Sept. 16. <http://www.legaltechnews.com/id=1202768546897/> discusses artificial intelligence and employment and whether technological advances really are a threat to the legal profession and lawyer jobs.

Sloan, Karen. "**On Law School Exam Answers, the Longer the Better.**" *Law.com*. Web. 27 Sept. 16. <http://www.law.com/sites/almstaff/2016/09/27/on-law-school-exam-answers-the-longer-the-better/?slreturn=20160907111054> -- reports on new research by two BYU law professors that finds "there is a statistically significant positive correlation between the amount a law student writes on a first-year essay exam and the grade on the exam."

Todd, Ross. "What Clients Want — Court Time for Junior Lawyers but Also Control." *Law.com*. Web. 28 Sept. 16.

<http://www.law.com/sites/almstaff/2016/09/28/what-clients-want-court-time-for-junior-lawyers-but-also-control/> -- commentary following a federal judge's remarks about sending a junior lawyer into court; Law.com talks to in-house lawyers who have been working to get junior lawyers more courtroom opportunities.

3. OPPORTUNITY: NON-PROFIT DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS FELLOW, THE CENTER FOR SURVIVOR AGENCY AND JUSTICE (CSAJ)

If you are interested in a public sector/non-profit career path, criminal law, family law, legal aid, etc. and have some tech skills, consider the following opportunity:

[The Center for Survivor Agency and Justice](#) (CSAJ) seeks a Non-Profit Development & Communications Fellow to join our team for Fall semester 2016 (extension possible). The Fellowship is open to college students in journalism, communications, marketing, or social work, nonprofit management, business, or other liberal studies areas with an interest in non-profit management and communications. CSAJ will work with the accepted Fellow to seek course credit, as desired.

Organization Description

The Center for Survivor Agency and Justice is a national organization dedicated to enhancing advocacy for survivors of intimate partner violence.

CSAJ develops and promotes transformative advocacy approaches that remove systemic barriers, enhance organizational responses, and improve professional practices to meet the self-defined needs of domestic and sexual violence survivors. We steer this towards our vision: a world where all people have equal access to physical safety, economic security, and human dignity.

The Development & Communications Fellow will contribute to and help grow CSAJ's groundbreaking initiatives, including:

The [Consumer Rights for Domestic Violence Survivors Initiative](#) (CRI) is a national project of CSAJ that enhances economic justice for survivors of domestic violence by building the capacity of and building partnerships between domestic violence and consumer lawyers and advocates across the nation.

The [Racial & Economic Equity for Survivors Project](#) (REEP) is a national project that seeks to remedy the systemic inequalities facing survivors of color and shift the current violence against women paradigm. In partnership with diverse anti-poverty, race equity, and violence against women practitioners, REEP will engage communities in identifying inequalities and employing impact legal and policy strategies that facilitate access to economic opportunity for survivors of color.

Position Description

CSAJ is composed of a small team of dedicated advocates in the legal, social work, public health, and academic fields who are wholly committed to creative vision, open communication, and justice-minded social change work. We are looking for a lively, bright, creative, and self-motivated team member who is social-justice minded, thrives in the media space, brings an aptitude for development and program planning, and demonstrates effective communication.

The Fellowship is a unique and exciting opportunity to gain hands-on experience developing strategy and managing communications to help shape the growth and direction of a quickly expanding national non-profit. The Development & Communications Fellow will work alongside CSAJ Staff and Board of Directors to research and develop funding from private foundations, corporation, and government grant as well as help conduct and manage CSAJ's communications plan.

The Fellow should be located in New York City or Washington, DC, but able to enjoy the flexibility and convenience of telecommuting. Fellows are integral to the CSAJ team, participating in weekly staff meetings with the organization's leadership, take part in all of CSAJ's trainings, and receive supervision and support from CSAJ Staff and Board of Directors.

Development Responsibilities Include:

- Research and develop funding from private foundations, corporations, and government grants for a national anti-domestic violence agency.
- Compile and update a comprehensive list of potential funders.
- Draft reports on potential funder and develop a plan for the organization based on research and incorporating ideas from board and staff.
- Meet with the Executive Director and/or board members to identify which funds and foundations to pursue further.
- Participate in drafting concept papers and grant proposals.
- Review CSAJ's ideas for raising funds. Compile them into a development plan with goals, objectives and tasks. Add timelines and assignment of responsibilities.
- Link fundraising efforts to communications plan.

Communications Responsibilities Include:

- Manage implementation of communications strategy including media and outreach calendars, website and media content strategy, expanding use of social media platforms, and donor communications.
- Design and produce email-blasts, newsletters, and other publications for program activities and outreach, as needed.
- Develop and manage contact lists.
- Provide general communications support including supporting staff in new media tools, assist in donor relations efforts, liase with CSAJ programs, staff, expert advisors, and Board of Directors.
- Help establish, develop tracking methods, and meet communications benchmarks.

This is an unpaid fellowship with a time commitment ranging from one semester to a full academic year. Opportunities to grow and receive future stipend or payment are available. Hours and projects can be flexible based on the schedule and goals of the applicant.

Qualifications

- Education and/or experience related to the job requirements (communications, journalism, marketing, public relations, outreach/education, social work, or liberal studies with interest in nonprofit management, development, and/or communications).
- Experience with strategy or program development.
- Proficiency and interest in digital and social media, design, multimedia, art, tech, and/or pop culture as well as strong written and verbal communication.
- Familiarity with design/communications suites such as Microsoft Office, Google Apps, iWork Suite, Adobe, HTML and other coding languages, and digital and social media platforms (from webinar software to Facebook/Twitter).
- Ability to work independently as well as in a team.
- Strong organization is key! Ability and desire to implement a project from start to finish, establish self-directed deadlines, and collaborate and delegate with CSAJ staff to accomplish goals.
- Sense of creativity and innovation, loves a challenge, driven, and passionate for a cause.
- Understanding of domestic violence and/or economic justice advocacy strongly desired

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Sara Wee at sarawee@csaj.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

4. INTERVIEW: DAN LASMAN (JHU '14), HARVARD LAW SCHOOL 2L

Dan Lasman grew up in Newton, Massachusetts and graduated from The Maimonides School in May 2010. Entering Hopkins, he was undecided about his course of study. After dabbling in the English and Global Environmental Change and Sustainability departments, Dan chose to major in International Studies. The multi-disciplinary nature of the program satisfied his desire for a broad liberal arts education and exposure to a wide array of perspectives and ideas. Taking advantage of the breadth of the International Studies major, Dan managed to pick up additional minors in Economics and Spanish for the Professions.

During the first two years of college, Dan was an attorney and witness on the JHU Mock Trial team and a Chair at the Johns Hopkins Model United Nations Conference. He studied abroad at Universidad Carlos III in Madrid, Spain with the Hopkins Madrid program fall of his junior year. Upon returning to campus the following spring, he interned with the Immigration Legal Services of the Esperanza Center as a legal assistant, Spanish translator, and interpreter. In the summer of 2013, Dan biked from Baltimore, Maryland to Seattle, Washington with 4K for Cancer. He graduated from Hopkins a semester early in December 2013.

For eight months immediately following college, Dan worked as a Litigation Project Assistant in WilmerHale's Washington DC office. He was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year to return to Madrid, Spain to teach English and Social Studies at a public high school. There, he coached his school's Model United Nations club, and led the school's team through the national rounds of the competition to the international finals in New York.

Dan enrolled at Harvard Law School (HLS) in September 2015 and expects to graduate in May 2018. He is an Article and Managing Editor for the Harvard Law and Policy Review, the Director of Finance and Pro Bono Partnerships of the Harvard Immigration Project, and a Research Assistant for Professor Jon Hanson through the HLS Systemic Justice Project. Dan hopes to specialize in immigration or international trade law. In his free time, he enjoys running, reading, and biking.

Describe a typical day as a second year/2L law student at Harvard Law School (HLS)?

My schedule varies depending on the day of the week, but it's standard to have one two-hour class in the morning and one two-hour class in the afternoon. My head is clearest in the morning, so I try to wake up early and finish my reading assignments for classes scheduled that day. Between classes, I normally grab lunch with friends. When class is over for the day, I run or take a bike ride to clear my head. In the evenings, I start my reading for the next day's class.

With a class of approximately 560 students, HLS is the second largest law school in the country. To break the campus down and help incoming first years establish a sense of community, the administration randomly divides students into seven sections of around eighty students each. During our first year, students take all required classes with members of their section. Each section is assigned a faculty representative to help acclimate students to campus and a substantial budget to organize section social events.

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

I chose HLS for the quality of legal education and alumni connections. Though many debate its fairness, I've heard time and again law is a profession in which "prestige" is valued greatly. HLS is the kind of line on your resume that can, in and of itself, open doors.

There are times that I wish I had gone to a smaller law school. The size of my class and brilliance of my classmates can be overwhelming. At the end of the day, I wouldn't change the decision I made for anything. I love being part of an academic culture in which I feel like I learn just as much from my colleagues as I do from my professors.

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?

During my first two years, I was an active member of the JHU Mock Trial team. It was through this exercise that I discovered my love for analytical thinking and debate. I continued to explore my interest in law by seeking out opportunities to observe legal work in practice. I interned at the Child Protection Unit of the Suffolk County District Attorney Office in Boston and started volunteering at the Immigration Legal Services of the Esperanza Center. These opportunities lent credibility to my law school application and reaffirmed my belief that I had what it took to be an effective attorney and enjoy the practice of law.

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?

Immediately upon graduating from JHU, I worked as a Project Assistant at WilmerHale in Washington DC. In my final semester, Ms. Droscoski sent out a mass email to the pre-law listserv advertising a WilmerHale networking event. The firm sought recent graduates for paralegal and secretarial roles. I attended the event, secured an interview, and the rest was history.

Following my short stint at WilmerHale, I embarked for Madrid, Spain on an English Teaching Assistantship through the Fulbright Program. I had applied for this opportunity while I was still at Hopkins but was not notified of my acceptance until months after graduating. The application process is a long and competitive one. Dr. Kelly Barry, Director at the JHU National Fellowships Program, was a tremendous resource in encouraging me to apply for the scholarship and helping me prepare my application materials.

This past summer, in between my first and second year of law school, I worked as a student attorney at the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic. I worked on five removal defense cases: three of which were asylum-based claims and two of which were Special Immigrant Juvenile petitions. Through the experience, I honed my legal research and writing skills, grew more comfortable with interviewing, and represented a client before an Immigration Judge at a Master Calendar Hearing.

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 used to be considered a safe, easy path to an upper-middle class lifestyle, but given the state of the legal job market, this is no longer the case. There is a glut of lawyers nationally; supply far outweighs demand. At HLS and other top schools, we don't feel this pressure as much as other law students across the country. But regardless of what law school you attend, it's important to study hard, network aggressively, and prepare well for job interviews. Before choosing a law school, I highly recommend you research job outcomes and salary data of the institution's recent graduates.

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?

Law school is a serious investment of time and money, and it's not the right path for everyone. Before making the decision to matriculate, seek out real-world experiences to determine what kind of practice would be most fulfilling for you. Law school will always be there as an option, so don't feel obligated to rush into it. Strengthen your sense of self and develop your interests before you make the life-changing investment.

Earning a strong score on the LSAT pays dividends, so prepare for the test diligently. In law school admissions, the LSAT is arguably just as important as your cumulative grade point average. It's a learnable test. From my diagnostic to final score, I improved by over 20 points. In the long-term, it's worth it to invest in good study materials and a LSAT preparation course.

Take advantage of the institutional resources at JHU. Even if you're undecided about law school, meet with Ms. Drososki at least once a year to keep your options open. Ultimately, the most important piece of advice I have is to enjoy your time at JHU. Study what you're passionate about, explore new disciplines, and perform activities because like them -- not because you think they'll be appealing to a grad school admissions committee.

Contact Information

Dan is happy to answer any further questions from students. He can be reached at: dlasman@jd18.law.harvard.edu.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Third Annual 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 11, 2016

Time: 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/index.cfm

"Does the Dead Constitution Have a Future? Reflections on the Legacy of Justice Antonin Scalia"

JHU Constitution Day Lecture

Location: 210 Hodson Hall

Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Time: 8pm

Description: The Academy at Johns Hopkins is sponsoring a lecture by Professor Michael Dorf of Cornell Law School. His topic: "Does the Dead Constitution have a future? Reflections on the Legacy of Justice Antonin Scalia."

Financial Aid Workshop

Location: Sherwood Room, Levering Hall

Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2016

Time: 12:00 to 1:00pm

Description: Stephen Brown, Assistant Dean of Enrollment at Fordham University School of Law, will present a financial aid workshop, providing financial planning and funding advice for law school.

Upcoming LSAT Administration

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

Date: September 24, 2016 / December 3, 2017 / February 4, 2017

Time: Report at no later than 8:30 am for the September 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

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_adrosc01
Email: adrosc01@jhu.edu
Website: <http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/>