



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

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Hope everyone has had a smooth start to Spring 2017 semester! Hope the holidays were restful and intersession was productive. If you are thinking about applying to law school this upcoming Fall (for Fall 2018 matriculation), think about requesting letters of recommendation (LORs) from professors at the end of this semester. Aim for two LORs from professors, and one from an additional work or internship experience. Ideally, ask the recommenders in person, and request that they are completed by June 15 (always give at least 3 week's notice/to complete). Be sure to use the (electronic) LOR service offered through the Credential Assembly Service of LSAC to collect LORs: <http://www.lsac.org/jd/applying-to-law-school/cas/lor-evaluations>. Remember, if you have additional questions, please feel free to schedule an appointment with me!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Ward, Stephanie Francis. **"Any LSAT alternatives must be validated through new process, according to proposed rule revision."** *The ABA Journal*. Web. 14 Feb. 17. http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/if_lsac_alternatives_allowed_proposal_calls_for_new_validation_process/ -- reports that at its March meeting, the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar will consider a proposed revision of Standard 503 that would establish a process to determine the reliability and validity of entrance exams other than the LSAT for admission to law school.

Ward, Stephanie Francis. **"Affluent students get law school merit scholarships while others foot the bill, study finds."** *The ABA Journal*. Web. 8 Feb. 17. http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/affluent_students_get_law_school_merit_scholarships_while_others_foot_the_bill/ -- the latest findings from the annual Law School Survey of Student Engagement, including the finding that "law schools have become more

generous with merit scholarships, and the money has been flowing to privileged students whose parents are college-educated...individuals whose parents had no college experience were the least likely to receive merit scholarships."

Ampel, Celia and Sloan, Karen. "ABA Rejects Stricter Bar-Pass Rule for Law Schools." *The National Law Journal*. Web. 6 Feb. 17. <http://www.therecorder.com/id=1202778545389/ABA-Rejects-Stricter-BarPass-Rule-for-Law-Schools> -- "the American Bar Association's House of Delegates on Monday rejected a measure to tighten the existing bar pass rule after a coalition of law deans and diversity advocates mounted a fourth-quarter campaign against it."

3. OPPORTUNITY: LEGAL & COMPLIANCE ANALYST/PARALEGAL (FT), PDT PARTNERS (NYC)

For those of you looking for a gap year(s) experience, and especially those interested in corporate law, consider applying for the following opportunity:

PDT Partners -- a New York City-based quantitative investment manager -- is looking for a highly talented analyst to join the Legal and Compliance Team. This role is a great opportunity for a bright, hard-working, detail-oriented individual who is interested in learning about the legal and regulatory needs of a world-class financial services firm.

The analyst will be responsible for assisting with the day-to-day support of the legal and compliance program, and working closely with PDT's team of lawyers and compliance professionals to ensure compliance with the firm's policies, procedures, and internal controls. The ideal candidate will have excellent organizational and communication skills, and will thrive in an intellectually-challenging and highly collaborative environment.

Why work for us? PDT Partners has a stellar twenty-three-year track record and a reputation for excellence. We strive to be the best quantitative investment firm on the planet, not by assets under management, but by the quality of our products. As a place to work, PDT's extremely high employee-retention rate speaks for itself. Our people are intellectually exceptional and our community is close-knit, down-to-earth, and diverse.

Responsibilities:

- Administer PDT's core compliance program and respond to compliance questions from colleagues
- Prepare regular and ad hoc regulatory filings, and field regulator and investor inquiries
- Monitor and investigate surveillance reports
- Organize and maintain books and records in various databases
- Assist in the annual review of compliance policies and procedures
- Work with software engineers to implement technological solutions that will enhance the compliance infrastructure
- Keeping apprised of regulatory developments and performing legal and other supplemental research

Qualifications:

- Entry-level to 3 years of relevant work experience. We welcome applicants interested in a long-term career with PDT, as well as those committed to pursuing graduate school after 2 - 3 years
- Proficient with Microsoft Office (advanced knowledge of PowerPoint and Excel a plus)
- Excellent communication skills, both verbally and in writing
- Thorough, conscientious, and meticulously attentive to detail
- Strong sense of urgency, with maturity and judgment to escalate issues promptly
- Takes ownership and holds self and others accountable

Education:

- Strong academic background from a top-tier university (all majors welcome—ideal candidates are distinguished by the ability to apply their background to inform and enhance their work)

Deadline: March 31, 2017

For complete information and to apply, visit:
https://jhu.joinhandshake.com/jobs/588722/share_preview

4. INTERVIEW: ELISSA MITTMAN (JHU '88), EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS, INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT

It was Elissa Mittman's first visit to Hopkins that was the clincher -- seeing its strong international relations department and then, in the aftermath of a winter snowstorm, watching students sled down "the beach" on cafeteria food trays. Although she wasn't quite sure which was her first preference. A native New Yorker, she applied early decision to Hopkins and was really excited to be accepted, because she simply didn't want to attend college elsewhere.

Elissa initially started as an international relations major and then shifted sophomore year to be a humanistic studies area major as it gave her the flexibility to focus more on her interests and create her own concentration -- Middle East Studies. She never regretted it, although many questioned her years ago -- saying "what will you do with that someday?" Who would ever have thought that the course "An Anthropological Approach to the Middle East and North Africa" with Professor Ashraf Ghani (now President of Afghanistan), and numerous Middle East courses with Professor P. Kyle McCarter (thank you Dr. McCarter!) would have such an impact years later.

Ultimately, Elissa went to law school (Hofstra University) and became an expert in refugee and immigration law, later specializing in Middle East refugee policy and processing -- all sparked by her Hopkins classes. This began an upward public service career trajectory in positions with international NGOs (e.g. International Rescue Committee, HIAS) and the U.S. Government. Whether it was collaborating on Senator

Kennedy's *Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act* and Senator Cardin's *Afghan Allies Protection Act*; interviewing refugees overseas during the Bosnian war and in Central America; adjudicating asylum-seeker claims in the U.S. on behalf of our government; supervising immigration legal services for a national network of immigration providers; or lecturing and training the next generation of advocates -- it's been a great journey.

And the journey continues -- Elissa, as the Executive Vice President of Operations for the International Refugee Assistance Project, is currently implementing a UNHCR (Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees) deployment program for young professionals with expertise in international law and refugee rights to interview at-risk Syrian refugees in the Middle East.

Describe the most memorable day in your career.

There have been so many memorable days that I'd rather reflect back and say my career in its entirety has been memorable. One day that I will always remember, though, is working for the U.S. Government and sitting in a cowshed in Croatia at a handmade table of random wooden planks and rusty nails and across from me were Bosnian asylum-seekers seated on wood logs covered with wool blankets who I was interviewing for refugee status. As such, I've never had a typical day -- work is always varied and interesting, and keeps staff (and me) challenged and engaged. I think it's so important to wake up every day and want to go to work. If you don't, then it's time to change jobs or your career path.

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

I wanted to make a difference. Whether directly, or indirectly through programs, policies, and back-end operations, I work to serve some of the world's most vulnerable and at-risk individuals and populations and help change their lives.

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?

It's important to remember that you simply can't help everyone, even if you wish you could. There are limitations regarding human and capital resources, and parameters of the law and policies that we must abide by.

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

You have the ability to create what you want to do and achieve it. Never be afraid to follow a non-traditional career path. Each employment position is a building block to the next step, and you may not always learn what you expect to learn in a specific job. Find a mentor -- mentorship is so important throughout your entire career, not just at the beginning. And most importantly, follow your passion!

Contact Information:

If you have questions, you can reach Elissa at emittman@refugeerights.org.

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 12, 2017

Time: Report at no later than 11:30 am 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.

LaTonia Sanders, Administrative Coordinator, [ladytee@jhu.edu](mailto:ladytee@jhu.edu) 410-516-4140  
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Please visit our website <http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/> for additional information.

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