



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

\*Best viewed in HTML\*

**Vol. 10, No. 10**

Friday, March 17, 2017

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**1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.**

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

The 2018 edition of the *U.S. News and World Report: Best Grad Schools* (USNWR) has been released, which includes the “best law school” rankings. They can be found here: <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/law-rankings>. There was some movement from last year, and this article in *The National Law Journal* provides a good overview on the changes, as well as some perspective on the USNWR rankings in general: <http://www.nationallawjournal.com/home/id=1202781204022>. While it is impossible to ignore the USNWR rankings, there are additional and arguably more important pieces to consider when deciding where to apply and eventually where to matriculate, such as: the location of the school, particularly in light of where you would like to be located/work upon graduating from law school, whether you received a financial award/the amount of debt load upon graduation, employment statistics for the law school, etc. Remember, the more factors you consider when deciding where to attend law school, the more optimized the fit!

*Have a wonderful spring vacation!*

**2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA**

Svrluga, Susan. “**Harvard Law School will no longer require the LSAT for admission.**” *The Washington Post*. Web. 9 Mar. 17.  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/03/08/harvard-law-school-will-no-longer-require-the-lsat-for-admission/?utm\\_term=.031b59a19d1d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/03/08/harvard-law-school-will-no-longer-require-the-lsat-for-admission/?utm_term=.031b59a19d1d) --  
 Harvard Law School (HLS) launches a pilot program where they will consider the GRE or the LSAT.

Mystal, Elie. **“Harvard Will Make It Easier For People Who Won’t Get Into Harvard To Be Taken Advantage Of.”** *Above the Law*. Web. 9 Mar. 17.  
<http://abovethelaw.com/2017/03/harvard-will-make-it-easier-for-people-who-wont-get-into-harvard-to-be-taken-advantage-of/> -- some reaction to HLS’s decision to consider the GRE or the LSAT in their admissions process.

Weiss, Debra Cassens. **“Trump budget eliminates Legal Services Corp. funding.”** *The ABA Journal*. Web. 16 Mar. 17.  
[http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/trump\\_budget\\_eliminating\\_funding\\_for\\_legal\\_services\\_corp/](http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/trump_budget_eliminating_funding_for_legal_services_corp/) -- however, "LSC President Jim Sandman remained optimistic...He said he expected Congress to ignore Trump's proposal and to grant the full \$502 million funding request."

Saul, Stephanie. **"Amid 'Trump Effect' Fear, 40% of Colleges See Dip in Foreign Applicants."** *The New York Times*. Web. 16 Mar. 17.  
[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/16/us/international-students-us-colleges-trump.html?\\_r=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/16/us/international-students-us-colleges-trump.html?_r=1) -- reports that new survey results show "nearly 40 percent of colleges are reporting overall declines in applications from international students." ("Graduate schools appear to be feeling the worst pinch, with nearly half reporting drops.")

### **3. OPPORTUNITY: ANALYST, ABELL FOUNDATION (FT, BALTIMORE)**

This is a unique position in support of the top two finance executives of the largest private foundation serving only Maryland. The ideal candidate is a bright, flexible self-starter who is eager to learn about philanthropy, business and law, and how they intersect in this unique non-profit organization. It is an excellent opportunity for candidates looking for work experience while considering, or in conjunction with, graduate education in law, business, or other studies.

The Analyst will work primarily with the Senior Vice President. She is responsible for the Foundation’s largest investments in green technologies, one of which is embroiled in high-stakes patent litigation. The Analyst may also work with the Chief Financial Officer on a diverse portfolio of program-related investments, loans, guarantees, and equity investments in start-up and early-stage technology companies, many of which require both financial and legal analysis. The Analyst is expected to be results-oriented with an ability to work independently and as part of team in a small, fast-paced, professional and collegial office environment.

#### **SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Analyst will be responsible for:

- 1) Research and analysis related to the Foundation’s investments, litigation and other business as necessary
- 2) Assistance managing litigation, including preparation for court filings, depositions, legal meetings, and business meetings
- 3) Working with the communications team on website management, social media, etc.

- 4) Administrative tasks such as management of telephone and email communications, preparation of expense reports, management of the calendars and travel arrangements
- 5) File management, both paper and electronic
- 6) Management of special projects as needed

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree required
- 1-2 years of work experience in a fast-paced business or legal environment preferred
- Strong computer skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Strong organizational and problem-solving skills
- Ability to exercise independent judgment
- Proven ability to multi-task and meet deadlines
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Attention to detail and ability to see the big picture
- High level of discretion, ability to handle confidential information, and comfortable working with numerous internal and external parties with diplomacy and tact

Interested candidates should email a cover letter, resume and three references to Angela Pyo (JHU '15) at [apyo@abell.org](mailto:apyo@abell.org).

#### **4. INTERVIEW: KATHERINE WU, 2L, BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW**

Katherine Wu is currently a second-year law student (2L) at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. In addition to a full-time course load this semester, she also interning with the Division of Enforcement at the Securities and Exchange Commission's New York Regional Office.

Prior to attending law school, she worked in New York City for two years as a corporate paralegal at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, specializing in Private Investment Funds (specifically, in Private Equity and Hedge funds).

Katherine graduated from Johns Hopkins University in May 2013 with a degree in International Studies with a focus on East Asian Affairs. While at Hopkins, she interned with the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City. She grew up in China and Hong Kong before completing her high school degree in the United States.

#### **Questions**

##### **Describe a typical day as a law student/2L at Cardozo.**

A typical day as a 2L is much different from being a 1L. As a 1L, I had an assigned schedule with designated core classes (i.e. civil procedure, torts, criminal law, contracts, property, etc.). As a 2L, there is much more flexibility when it comes to schedule planning. I get to choose my courses and because there is less class time, I have more time to engage in

extracurricular activities. A lot of my friends are on journals or participate in law school clinics. I took on a fall semester internship at the Bank of China's U.S. register broker-dealer, working about 15-20 hours a week. This semester, I am interning at the SEC's New York Office in the Market Abuse Unit within the Division of Enforcement. So two days out of the week I work full time, and I spilt my academic courses over the three other weekdays.

**To date, what has been your favorite law school class, and why? What classes are you looking forward to taking after your first year of law school?**

I find that when I can make a tangible connection between classroom materials and events that are happening in the real world, the coursework becomes more alive and interesting. Because of this, I really enjoyed international law. I had a very brilliant and passionate professor, and the subject matter itself is also really interesting. Topics covered in the course included international human rights, nationality, terrorism, international agreements and international courts. It was a macro view on how sovereign states interact with each other in maintaining world order. It is a bit different form a traditional law school class because there are a lot of gray areas and the topics can be theoretical, but much of the issues we discussed in class had a real-world application that was prominent in current events. I plan to take more courses that deal with specific areas of international law next semester and beyond.

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

Having lived and worked in NYC for two years prior to law school, I knew that I wanted to be in the city for law school. NYC is unique in its concentration of opportunities—whatever area of law you want to pursue, there is a space for that. Furthermore, much of my professional network is also in New York City. I would highly recommend anyone applying to law school to think carefully about the geographical location of the school.

The major pro of law school is the legal education itself. It is hugely demanding, but incredibly rewarding. The major cons of law school – honestly, most of the cons I can think of are fairly obvious: huge time and financial commitment, stress, amount of work, etc. But it's all the worst if you went to law school just to “figure things out”. If you go into law school with a clear goal and understanding of what being a lawyer means, most of these cons aren't really deal breakers.

**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?**

There are some obvious components of a law school application that are important: undergrad GPA, LSAT score, resume. To that end, other than getting good grades at Hopkins, take the time to study for the LSAT. A good score can mean a better chance at getting into the school you want to and also get you scholarship, which is particularly attractive in a three year graduate school commitment. While at Hopkins, I knew that law

school was something I had definitely wanted to pursue, but wanted some work experience first. I had interned with the Maryland States Attorney office while in Baltimore and I also took some finance related courses towards the end of college and got really interested in finance, which is when I realized that pursuing business/corporate law would be a perfect combination of my interests. Now that I am in law school, I am also realizing the value of having taken so many writing-intensive courses while at Hopkins. There is, predictably, a tremendous amount of reading and writing in law school. I think Hopkins prepared me pretty well for that.

**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?**

I took two years off between Hopkins and law school as a corporate paralegal at the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. Most paralegals have more of a generalist role, but I was placed into a group that specialized in private funds. I cannot say enough good things about my two-year experience at Paul Weiss. I gained insight into the mechanisms of a law firm, learned the ins and outs of a niche field that is in high demand, and gained substantive legal experience. It has also proven to be incredibly helpful for internship/job opportunities. Since then, I have interned in the legal department of a large investment manager as well as a bank. I am currently doing a spring internship at the SEC, which has been quite interesting and exciting so far. Getting good grades in law school is no doubt important, but having substantial work experience is what can set you apart in the hiring process. Law school courses do not provide a lot of “hands on” legal work, so the best way to gain experience is through working.

**How would you compare the reality of law school and the ensuing job search to the picture you had of it while an undergraduate?**

I think that in general, most law school applicants are pretty well informed. The data on law school applications and the legal job market are readily available, as well as the individual employment statistic for each school. Do your research before applying.

As for the reality of law school- it’s a steep learning curve. It will take longer than expected to get the hang of reading an opinion, to really “get” legal writing or legal research. Your first time outlining for an exam will be stressful and overwhelming. But it is absolutely manageable, especially coming out of a school like Hopkins.

**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?**

The best course of action I took prior to going to law school was working in the industry for two years. Above all else, the experience and network I have built from those two years have been absolutely invaluable. Separately, law school is a big commitment in terms of money, time, and opportunity cost. Do not go to law school if your motivation or end goal is unclear. I would recommend any prospective law school applicants to talk to as many

law students or practicing attorneys as they can, and try to work in the legal industry to gain some insight into the field.

Contact Information: Katherine is happy to answer questions relating to the law school application process, taking a gap year (or two), law school, and anything in between and can be reached at [katherinekwu@gmail.com](mailto:katherinekwu@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 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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## **STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING**

Kelli R. Johnson, J.D., Director  
Ana L. Droscoski, J.D., Associate Director  
Ellen Snyderman, M.S., Assistant Director  
Shannon Jensen, M.A., Assistant Director

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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