



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

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 10, No. 13

Friday, May 5, 2017

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

This is the final Pre-Law e-Newsletter of 2016-2017. Congratulations to everyone for completing another academic year, and especially to the seniors -- college chapter (nearly) closed! Hopefully everyone has summer plans and is looking forward to (and getting) a break from classes.

Please note that the office is open over the summer and that phone appointments will be available to those not in Baltimore. To schedule an in person or phone appointment, please visit the following link:

<https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/vkb5m10/10>

Have a wonderful summer!

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

For those of you interested in eventually working/practicing in parts of the UK, the first 2 articles may be of particular interest:

Cohen, Mark A. **"A British Reboot Of Legal Education-- Law School Optional."** *Forbes*. Web. 01 May 17. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/markcohen1/2017/05/01/a-british-reboot-of-legal-education-law-school-optional/#2e6b78dd11b8> -- reports that the body that oversees the legal profession in England and Wales has announced an overhaul of solicitor licensing requirements, and licensure will now be based on a competency-based exam and will not require a law degree.

Ward, Stephanie Francis. **"'Super' exam for UK solicitor candidates coming in 2020."** *ABA Journal*. Web. 01 May 17.

http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/super_exam_coming_for_uk_solicitor_candidates_coming_in_2020/ -- *ABA Journal* also reports on this development: "The two-

part test will include computer-based multiple choice questions and a practical element that may be combined with work-based training."

Ward, Stephanie Francis. "**Lawyers' salaries slipping compared to other professions, data indicates.**" *ABA Journal*. Web. 02 May 17. http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/lawyers_salaries_slipping_compared_to_other_professions_data_indicates/ -- reports that "the median salaries of information systems managers, pharmacists and nurse anesthetists are now higher than the median salary for lawyers, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics," and after adjusting for inflation, the median annual lawyer salary has decreased 2.9 percent from 2006.

3. OPPORTUNITY: PROGRAM INTERN, RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION (BETHESDA, MD)

For those searching for a summer internship that have an interest in environmental law, consider the following:

Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) seeks an intern to work with its staff to assist in the development and implementation of programs. The full-time summer position is available immediately. The position is an exciting opportunity for a student or recent graduate who wishes to work on current national issues.

The intern will assist and Executive Director and Program Directors in the following activities:

- * Development of content for RNRF's website
- * Assist with editorial production of *Renewable Resources Journal*
- * Planning and development of RNRF's 2017 Conference on Contemporary Issues in Forest and Wildland Management and Conservation
- * Planning and development of RNRF's Washington Round Table on Public Policy series, and other meetings

Candidates must be students or recent graduates with education/experience/interest in natural resources, environmental science, land-use planning and design, water management, climate science and/or public policy. Excellent communication skills are a must.

Reports to the Executive Director, and works out of the foundation's offices in N Bethesda, Maryland (White Flint Metro).

The internship pays at the rate of \$1,500/mo. OR academic credit available.

How to Apply

Send cover letter and résumé, in confidence, to: Executive Director, Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, 6010 Executive Blvd, 5th Floor, N Bethesda, MD 20852-3827, OR by email to careers@rnrf.org. No telephone calls please.

Deadline: May 15, 2017

For more information, visit:

<https://www.idealists.org/en/nonprofit-internship/3e2efbdf46a742b4b42f2e9853d4a49d-program-intern-renewable-natural-resources-foundation-n-bethesda>

4. INTERVIEW: TOM PEDRONI (JHU '76), HEALTH LAW ATTORNEY

Tom Pedroni is a lifelong Baltimorean, having gone to high school, college at JHU and law school in Baltimore City. He considers this his greatest strength, but also at the same time his Achilles heel (not coincidentally Achilles is the name of his beloved dog). Tom has been married for 25+ years and has two adult children -- both good students and college graduates.

After an appellate judicial clerkship on the Maryland Court of Appeals (the highest court in the state), he entered private law practice as a civil litigator and pretty much hated it. Tom feels he was not temperamentally suited for the adversarial nature of litigation. Notwithstanding his dislike for this area of practice, he made partner at his first law firm. Soon thereafter, he discovered law and medicine, which he absolutely adored from day one – and still adores to this very day.

Tom started taking depositions of medical doctors and medical professionals in contested mass tort products liability and medical malpractice cases, learning medical terminology and procedures rapidly and discovering how energizing and satisfying it was to do something he actually liked. Having worked really hard in this area, he soon became known for his expertise in the medical/legal arena. He discovered through trial and error that more often than not in law practice, your specialty chooses you, rather than the other way around.

Tom decided that he wanted to pursue medical/legal work as his specialty practice. Lucky for him, Johns Hopkins has a pretty good name in medical circles so he was able, through a JHU alumni connection, to get a job as senior counsel for Hopkins Hospital and Health System -- which he loved until he realized that “Hopkins liked to pay staff 40% less for the privilege of working at the Mecca.”

Consequently, to support his family better, he re-entered private practice in two consecutive law firms, where he was a non-litigation partner in health law. He worked at these firms until he started his own practice in health law over five years ago. Tom's current practice is housed in an office in the newly renovated section of Hampden in Baltimore City, not far from the Hopkins Homewood campus.

Questions:

Describe a day in the life of a health law attorney; feel free to describe your most memorable day on the job.

My most memorable day in my health law practice occurred when the new HIPAA privacy regulations were established in August of 2003. Literally all health care providers had to either establish or revise their entire privacy policies and procedures -- an enormous task, to say the least. It created an incredible amount of work for health law attorneys.

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

My initial attraction to the area was in the intellectual stimulation of being immersed in law and medicine at the same time. Plus, I found the science of the medical practice to be incredibly invigorating.

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?

The downside to the practice area is that of barriers to entry. The area has a jargon all its own – medical jargon – and unless one practices in a highly specialized health law group or as in-house counsel to a hospital or other provider organization, it is often too difficult to establish or maintain a practice.

I had no idea what a health law practice was, or what it looked like, while in law school. Today there are good clinical programs available to law students who are contemplating entering this practice area. Twenty-five years ago, when I was in law school, there were practically none.

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

My best advice if a student is contemplating entering this field of practice, is to take a good clinical program and significant course work in health law in law school. Many law schools today have certificate programs that allow students to concentrate somewhat in the area. Thus, students can gain real exposure to this practice area while in law school and be better prepared not only to practice health law, but also to predict better whether this practice area really suits them in the short or intermediate time frame.

Contact Information:

Tom Pedroni is happy to talk to students and can be reached by email at: tom@pedronilaw.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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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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