



The Pre-Law e-Newsletter from Pre-Professional Programs & Advising
Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 11, No. 6
Friday, December 1, 2017

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

I hope everyone had a great break! This will be the final e-newsletter of the Fall 2017 semester.

For those of you that missed the financing your graduate education program, please note that hard copy materials are available for pick up at the front of our office. This is a great article and breakdown on “**America’s Most Expensive Law Schools, 2017**”: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/karstenstrauss/2017/03/17/americas-most-expensive-law-schools-2017/#281863135709>

Best of luck to those taking the LSAT tomorrow! And good luck to everyone with wrapping up the semester.

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Morris, Angela. “**LSAT-Takers Trending Up Following 5-Year Plunge. Why?**” *The American Lawyer*. Web. 10 Nov. 17. <https://www.law.com/americanlawyer/sites/almstaff/2017/11/10/lsat-takers-trending-up-following-five-year-plunge-why/> -- reports that “LSAT numbers have seen modest single-digit gains in the last two testing years, following a five-year decline in which the number of LSAT test-takers dropped by nearly 41 percent.”

Silverstein, Ed. “**Northwestern Law School, ROSS Intelligence Move Forward with AI Partnership.**” *Legaltech News*. Web. 14 Nov. 17. <https://www.law.com/legaltechnews/sites/legaltechnews/2017/11/14/northwestern-law-school-ross-intelligence-move-forward-with-ai-partnership/> -- reports that “Northwestern University’s Pritzker School of Law and Ross Intelligence are moving forward with a partnership that will let students use new technology [artificial intelligence] in classrooms and public interest activities.”

Jaschik, Scott. “**3 More Law Schools Will Accept GRE, Not Just LSAT.**” *Inside HigherEd*. Web. 20 Nov. 17. <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2017/11/20/3-more-law-schools->

[will-accept-gre-not-just-lsat](#) – St. Johns University, Texas A&M University and Wake Forest University will now accept the GRE.

3. OPPORTUNITY: PENN STATE LAW'S EXPLORE LAW

Undergraduate students interested in learning more about law school are invited to attend Penn State Law's **free** [Explore Law](#) program this spring on Penn State's University Park campus.

The three-day residency program, held from May 14 through 16, will provide participants with an introduction to the study of law and the law school learning environment. The program includes LSAT preparation instruction as well as courses taught by Penn State Law faculty, judges, and practicing attorneys.

All tuition costs of the program, including housing and meals, will be paid by Penn State Law. **The deadline to [apply](#) is April 2.**

The tuition-free program includes housing and is open to all undergraduate students, but priority may be given to students from underrepresented groups.

4. INTERVIEW: LINDSEY CLOUD MERVIS, LEGAL COMMUNICATIONS TRAINER AND COACH, KNP COMMUNICATIONS

Lindsey Cloud Mervis grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, where she was heavily involved in the performing arts from an early age. An avid singer and actor, she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. After graduating in 2001, Lindsey moved to New York City where she acted in a number of theatrical productions and also performed, toured, and recorded a full-length album with *Jeff Harris and the Super Casuals* as a vocalist and keyboard player.

In 2008, Lindsey was called for jury duty in Brooklyn and served as a juror on a manslaughter trial. That experience was a turning point in her career. During that trial, Lindsey was fascinated with the courtroom so much so that it led her to attend law school at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C. In law school, she was an active member of the Moot Court National Trial Team and was a finalist in a national trial competition. She graduated *cum laude* and was elected Student Commencement Speaker for the Class of 2012.

Upon graduation, Lindsey was admitted to the Maryland Bar and completed a constitutional law fellowship at the Institute for Justice in Arlington, Virginia. In 2014, she was appointed an adjunct faculty member at The Columbus School of Law, where she directs and leads the Moot Court National Trial Team.

Lindsey currently works as a Legal Communications Trainer and Coach with KNP Communications, leading presentation skills trainings at the most reputable law firms in the United States.

What was your most memorable day on the job?

No question, it was my first day on the job, leading a presentation skills workshop at an international law firm in D.C.

I realized early on in law school that there was a great need in the legal profession for the skills I learned as an actor – awareness of effective body language, vocal delivery, and storytelling. I wanted to find a way to fill that need while marrying my two passions, acting and the law, so I started a company called Persuasive Performances with a business partner. On the day of our first big training with our first big client, I remember sitting in the conference room in complete disbelief that it was actually happening. One of the attorneys I worked with that day remarked, “see, THIS is what they don’t teach you in law school!” and I remember feeling energized and excited to see what would follow.

What attracted you to this field?

When I served as a juror on that manslaughter trial back in 2008, I was fascinated by everything about the trial process. But even more than that, I was struck by the camaraderie in the courtroom. The attorneys on opposing sides were zealous advocates for their clients at the same time as they were exceptionally professional with one another, the judge, the court clerk, etc. The legal profession is full of smart, dynamic people working together in a wide range of settings, and I am proud to work among them.

Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in pursuing a legal education?

While you’re in law school, listen out for potential experiences that excite you. Often students begin their legal education with a well-thought-out plan and risk missing opportunities along the way that could lead to unexpected career fulfillment. For me, it was sitting in my 1L Lawyering Skills class when a student came in to tell us about upcoming tryouts for the Moot Court National Trial Team. I hadn’t known about national trial competitions going into law school and hadn’t planned on doing anything like it. Still, everything about it sounded like fun to me. Trying out for that team turned out to be a life- and career-changing choice.

It’s great to set goals and plan for achieving them, but don’t become so wedded to any particular path that you miss out on interesting diversions that could become an even better plan for your career.

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me at lindsey@knpcommunications.com if I can answer any questions you might have.

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: December 2, 2017 / February 10, 2018 / June 11, 2018

Time: Report at no later than 8:30 am for the December exam -- consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

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Please visit our website <http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/> for additional information.

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