



The Pre-Law e-Newsletter from Pre-Professional Programs & Advising
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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

There will be a SEO Law Virtual Info Session on **Monday, February 26 at 6:30pm EST.**

The SEO Law Fellowship is the only program of its kind to offer talented incoming law school students of color the opportunity to work at a top law firm during the summer before law school. Fellows receive intensive academic prep through workshops, lectures, and seminars, all before starting their first year at law school. More information about the program can be found at the following link: <http://www.seolaw.org/>

The information session on Monday will provide an overview of SEO Law Fellowship Program as well as the application process. To register for the session, visit: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5396286909678430467>

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Lederman, Doug. **“Syracuse Law Gains Approval for (Mostly) Online J.D.”** *Inside HigherEd*. Web. 15 Feb. 18. <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2018/02/15/syracuse-law-gains-approval-mostly-online-jd> -- ABA Council approved variances that will allow online JD programs at two law schools.

Sloan, Karen. **"ABA Set to Loosen Restrictions on Online Law Classes."** *LegalTech News*. Web. 13 Feb. 18. -- reports that the ABA Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar has approved for notice and comment a provision that would double the number of credit hours JD students can take online.

Organ, Jerry. **“2018 Applicant Pool Projection Update: Good News For Highly-Ranked Law Schools.”** *TaxProf Blog*. Web. 12 Feb. 18. http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2018/02/update-on-2018-applicant-pool-projections-with-good-news-for-highly-ranked-law-schools.html -- analyzes LSAC's law school application data and notes that the numbers show a significant increase in the number of applicants with a high LSAT of 165 or higher compared with the five most recent admission cycles, and predicts a fall class size of about 40,000, up from about 37,000 for the last four years.

3. OPPORTUNITY: DELAWARE LAW SCHOOL JURIST ACADEMY 2018

In an attempt to increase participation of historically underrepresented groups in law school, Widener University Delaware Law School will be hosting a two-week pre-law immersion program for rising college juniors and seniors called the JURIST Academy. Students will experience the dynamics of a law school classroom, meet lawyers and judges in fieldtrips and on-campus, and have many opportunities to learn about the law school admissions process.

The 2018 Jurist Academy will be held Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. beginning June 4, 2018 and ending on June 14, 2018.

Tuition, meals and housing are provided for free. If the anticipated funding is secured, participants will receive a small stipend at the end of the program.

The application deadline is May 1, 2018.

Interested applicants can apply online here:

<https://delawarelaw.widener.edu/prospective-students/jd-program/apply/diversity-and-inclusion/jurist-academy/>

4. INTERVIEW: JUDSON HAMLIN, ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR, MIDDLESEX COUNTY (NJ) PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Judson Hamlin, a native of East Brunswick, New Jersey (NJ), graduated from Rutgers Preparatory School in 1986. In 1990, he earned his BA from the University of Richmond, majoring in History and Political Science, with a minor in English.

After attending the University of Toledo School of Law, he graduated *cum laude* from New York Law School in 1996.

He began his career with the Somerville, NJ firm of Golden, Rothschild, Spagnola & Lundell. While there, he worked in the fields of Civil Rights defense, asbestos defense and products liability. He also appeared in Workers' Compensation and Municipal Courts.

In 1998, he moved to the Middlesex County (NJ) Prosecutor's Office, where he remains to this day. He has led the Domestic Violence and Narcotics units and is currently the Chief of the Pre-Trial Unit. In that role, he has overseen the office's management of Bail Reform and the Grand Jury. He has also served as a legal advisor to police departments through the county.

A former President of the New Brunswick Bar Association and Trustee of the Middlesex County Bar, he was recognized as the latter Association's Criminal Practitioner of the Year in 2009.

He has lectured on ethics, criminal justice reform, search and seizure and courtroom testimony. He is a member of the NJ Attorney General's Fingerprint Compliance Committee.

Outside the office, he is married to Lisa and is the father of two daughters, Ilona (Incoming freshman at Goucher – GO GOPHERS!) and Amelia (15). He is an avid birder, hiker and native plant gardener.

Describe a day in the life of an Assistant Prosecutor.

For the most part, the day of the assistant prosecutor is spent in court; arguing motions, obtaining search warrants, negotiating pleas, arraigning or sentencing defendants and trying cases. In short, it is a job spent on your feet. Research and writing has its place in preparing arguments but it is about being able to adapt on the run to an unexpected ruling, defense or witness.

My most satisfying days on the job have been when the jury has returned a guilty verdict on a tough case. There are some that stand out – a homicide conviction in the brutal murder of a prostitute in Perth Amboy; a stalking conviction against an ex-boyfriend of a woman whose life had been ruined by repeated threats and false 911 calls; the first strict liability drug death case in the county. The satisfaction isn't really personal, it is knowing that the victim or their family was right to trust in the justice system.

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

My transition to the Prosecutor's Office was (I thought at the time) going to be temporary. I was planning on going back to civil litigation after getting some trial experience. But I quickly realized how interesting and exciting the work was. Along the way, I've also appreciated the greater balance between work and life – using vacation time without having to make up billable hours, less time spent at the office on nights and weekends, not driving from court to court to court and the like.

How would you compare the reality of your profession to the picture you had of it before entering and while in law school? Are there downsides to your field?

Even though I worked as a paralegal before going back to law school in a mid-sized firm and thought I knew what the practice would be, I think I was blind to the amount of "other" work that went in to civil practice. Client development, marketing and the realities of billable hours were all more complicated and draining than I had guessed and were the reasons that I left to go to the Prosecutor's Office.

As a career prosecutor, I think it is easy to become numb to much of the suffering that you deal with every day. Man's inhumanity to his fellow man, woman and child is, unfortunately, routine. It's nothing to engage in daily conversations about drug overdose deaths, human trafficking and armed robberies. I've had to remember that the question, "what'd you do at work today?" is not always best answered with details.

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

First, I think you need to know how much more of a grind law school is going to be. To be honest, I did well in college without a tremendous effort. I had a fair amount of youthful ego about how law school would be a breeze. False. If you don't stay on top of the work from day one, you will miss out. You cannot pull an all-nighter and learn a semester of Wills, Trust and Estates, or tie together 200 years of *in personam* jurisdiction for Civ Pro in a couple of days. Won't work.

Whatever your field of interest, try to find internships along the way. Our office hires (unpaid) college students and summer associates every year. In an office of our size (50 attorneys), those

interns get up close and personal with the cases and even, as rising 3L students, get to argue motions in court.

Also, get involved in the local or county Bar Association as soon as possible. Never underestimate the value of old-school networking. Most groups have a Young Lawyers Section, and they are constantly looking for volunteers to be on committees, work with Moot Court teams and just show up. You'll meet judges and attorneys in a less formal setting and make valuable connections.

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 11, 2018 / July 23, 2018 / September 8, 2018

Time: Report at no later than 12:30 pm for the June 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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