



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

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Friday, April 13, 2018

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

The International Studies Program is offering a new mini-term course this summer, **AS.192.222(73) Introduction to International Law**. The class will be offered Monday-Friday, July 9-20 from 9:00am-12:00pm.

Course Description: This course will introduce students to International law, its subjects and sources in the 21st century, including both human rights and the recent independence movements will be discussed as well as topics such as what a treaty is and customary international law, and the role of courts and scholars in the construction of international law.

Instructor -- Marieke de Hoon is a legal scholar from VU University in Amsterdam where she teaches Public International Law. She is an authority on international criminal law, human rights law, use of force and aggression. Moreover, her research explores the consequences of legalizing aggression and of including it in the international criminal law framework, both for the development of international criminal law and human rights law, (future) adjudication in the International Criminal Court, and the politics that is generated by the regulation and criminalization of aggression.

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Weber, Mark. **“Seven Changes in the Legal Job Market Impacting New Lawyers.”** *The National Law Journal*. Web. 20 Mar. 18. <https://www.law.com/nationallawjournal/2018/03/30/seven-changes-in-the-legal-job-market-impacting-new-lawyers/> -- Harvard's Assistant Dean for Career Services shares his perspective on how the world has changed for new law school graduates entering Big Law careers over the 24 years that he has worked with law students, alumni, and employers.

Henderson, Bill. **“Legal Academics Grappling with the Future of Legal Ed.”** *Legal Revolution blog*. Web. 2 Apr. 18. <https://www.legalevolution.org/2018/04/legal-academics-grappling-with-future-legal-ed-046/> -- author urges his law faculty colleagues to bring non-

academics (legal tech, legal practitioners, access to justice advocates) meaningfully into the dialogue about how to reimagine the future of legal education.

Caron, Paul. **“25% Of Harvard Law Students Suffer From Depression, 20% Are At Heightened Risk Of Suicide.”** *TaxProf Blog*. Web. 3 Apr. 2018. http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2018/04/25-of-harvard-law-students-suffer-from-depression-20-are-at-heightened-risj-of-suicide.html -- highlights a *Harvard Crimson* piece on the results of Harvard's annual mental health survey that also includes a call to action: "We therefore call on all law schools to survey their own student bodies every year and release the survey data. The court of public opinion should hold them accountable."

3. OPPORTUNITY: SUMMER 2018 OFFICE INTERNSHIPS, DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS (NYC)

For those of you interested in international human rights issues, consider one the following summer internships to bolster your resume with an organization in that space, as well as to build your network for future positions:

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF-USA) Office Interns gain practical work experience and support the work of the organization's Communications, Development, Program, Human Resources (both for the field and the office), and Executive departments. Interns also gain a basic introduction to the field of international medical humanitarian aid and advocacy. All internships take place in the **New York office** and will be paid at the rate of \$13.50 per hour.

2018 Summer Internship Program Schedule: May 29-August 24, 2018

Important Information

- This is a competitive program. Candidates will be selected on a merit basis.
- Due to high volume of applications, only successful candidates will be contacted **after** the application deadline.
- Internship applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Candidates may apply for more than one term, but will only be contacted regarding the most current term.
- To obtain an internship position, you must be eligible to work in the US without sponsorship. International candidates are responsible for securing their U.S. work permit. If your CV indicates that you are not based in New York, please make sure to explicitly note in your cover letter that you will be available to move to New York City for the duration of the internship, if applicable.
- All candidates are responsible for their own accommodation (and relocation, if applicable) in New York City. If your cover letter indicates that you are not based in New York, please make sure to explicitly note in your cover letter that you will be available to move to New York City for the duration of the internship, if applicable.
- Please note interns are paid at an hourly rate of \$13.50/hr.

Application Deadline: April 18, 2018

To apply to an internship position, email your resume and cover letter to: internships@newyork.msf.org.

Example: If you are applying to the IT Internship for the Summer 2018 program, then your email Subject line should be: IT Intern -- Summer 2018.

If you are applying for more than one internship position, please send an email for each position using the example above.

For more information, and to see the complete list of the internships available, visit: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/work-us/work-office/office-internships>

4. INTERVIEW: MIGUEL CORDANO, SHAREHOLDER, LIEBLER, GONZALEZ, AND PORTUONDO

Miguel Cordano was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and raised in Lima, Peru. When he was 19, he moved to Lexington, Kentucky and attended college at the University of Kentucky. He subsequently obtained his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Florida International University, with a minor in English. He particularly enjoyed his English Literature and pre-law undergrad courses. Calculus and Accounting were definitely a challenge. After taking a one-year plus break from his professional education, Miguel attended the American University, Washington College of Law (WCL) in Washington, DC. During his time at WCL, he joined the law school's Tax Clinic and The Hispanic Law Students Association. Also during that time, he was able to intern at the US Department of Commerce and the InterAmerican Development Bank, all gratifying experiences. After graduating in May of 2000, he moved to Miami where he joined a boutique real estate law firm. A year later, he joined Liebler, Gonzalez & Portuondo in Florida.

Questions:

Describe a day in the life of a Shareholder at Liebler, Gonzalez and Portuondo.

My practice encompasses the areas of banking, payment systems, commercial litigation, real estate and e-discovery. My team also serves as the "ER" for the law firm. That is, we handle matters that require emergency handling (next-day hearings, depositions, etc.). Many times, we are working on several emergencies for our clients, which require a heightened sense of urgency. For instance, we often receive escalations late in the evening, which require our client's appearance at a hearing to face sanctions. In response, we quickly need to research and analyze facts, identify and prepare witnesses, draft responses, and engage in settlement discussions with opposing counsel. The satisfaction of our clients makes every case memorable.

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

I like advocating for clients. Settling a case or winning in Court are both extremely satisfying.

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?

Before I entered the legal profession, like many of my colleagues, I envisioned the majority of my time as an attorney would be spent advocating for my clients in a courtroom. As it turns out, I spend more time sitting behind my computer than standing behind a podium. The reality of my profession is that effective advocacy often translates in trying to resolve matters in a timely, cost effective manner without having to appear in Court. Perhaps the downside of my field, is the fact that it can be hard on my family and friends as my clients' needs can take away from my time with them. Like many of my colleagues, I have spent many late nights and weekends in the office with

an emergency deadline. Fortunately, my family has provided me with their unwavering support over the years as I developed my practice area.

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

I would encourage any undergraduate interested in pursuing this body of law to take a multitude of writing classes. As a lawyer, your oral arguments are important, but the ability to transcribe your ideas is really the test for success. To that end, try and take as many writing classes as offered as it is something that you will not regret down the line. I would also encourage students who are interested in the areas of finance litigation to take economic and marketing classes. To be an effective advocate for representing corporate clients, you have to understand the nuances of your client's business and the economics behind why decisions are made on a daily basis. As an attorney, you can advise your clients on individual legal issues, but you also have to consider your client's business goals as the legal aspect is often only a fraction of the question. Understanding my client's long term goals, economic challenges, may often impact my analysis on the legal issues. My job is to provide my clients a framework of options, the risk of each path and let them decide the course.

Contact Information:

Miguel Cordano is happy to answer questions or offer guidance and is reachable by email at: MC@lgplaw.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 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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**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  
For students whose last name begins with M-Z, contact Mrs. Sanders.

Angie Decker, Office Manager, [decker@jhu.edu](mailto:decker@jhu.edu)

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

Ana L. Droscoski, J.D.  
Associate Director  
Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

Johns Hopkins University  
Garland Hall Suite 300  
3400 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Tel: +1 410.516.4140  
Fax: +1 410.516.4040  
Skype: preprof\_adrosco1  
Email: [adrosco1@jhu.edu](mailto:adrosco1@jhu.edu)  
Website: <http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/>