



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

\*Best viewed in HTML\*

**Vol. 12, No. 1**

Friday, September 14, 2018

- ~~~~~
- 1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.**
  - 2. Legal Education & the Legal Industry in the Media**
  - 3. Opportunity: Fall Internships, International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Baltimore**
  - 4. Interview: Jeremy Garson, Esq. '10, Legal Counsel and Associate Project Director, The Bridge Alliance**
  - 5. Upcoming Pre-Law Student Meeting & Program Announcements**
- ~~~~~

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

Welcome to the freshmen, and welcome back to everyone else! Hope everyone had a fantastic summer and that the fall 2018 semester is happily underway.

If you enjoy writing and are searching for a pre-law student minded activity and community, consider learning more about -- and possibly applying for -- the journal launching on campus: the *Johns Hopkins Undergraduate Law Review*. Kiana Boroumand '20, Editor-in-Chief, shares the following:

The *Johns Hopkins Undergraduate Law Review (JHULR)* is currently accepting applications for staff writer and editor positions. *JHULR* publishes online, at [jhulr.org](http://jhulr.org), and in-print. If you are interested in joining, please email [jhulawreview@gmail.com](mailto:jhulawreview@gmail.com) for an application and more information! Applications are due by Friday, September 21st.

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

Liebenthal, Ryann. "**The Incredible, Rage-Inducing Inside Story of America's Student Debt Machine.**" *Mother Jones Magazine*. Web. Sep./Oct. 18. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/08/debt-student-loan-forgiveness-betsy-devos-education-department-fedloan/> -- asks "Why is the nation's flagship loan forgiveness program failing the people it's supposed to help?" and includes law students in its profiles.

Jackson, Liane. "**Race and gender bias is rampant in law, says new report that also offers tools to fight it.**" *ABA Journal*. Web. 6 Sep. 18. [http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/race\\_and\\_gender\\_is\\_bias\\_rampant\\_in\\_law\\_says\\_new\\_report\\_that\\_also\\_offers\\_too/](http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/race_and_gender_is_bias_rampant_in_law_says_new_report_that_also_offers_too/) -- shares the "[You Can't Change What You Can't See: Interrupting Racial & Gender Bias in the Legal Profession](#)," report "based on a 2016 survey of 2,827 in-house and firm attorneys, [which] says current efforts to advance women and minorities have largely failed, and bias and discrimination — explicit and implicit — persist." The Center for WorkLife Law at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco

conducted the survey on behalf of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession and the Minority Corporate Counsel Association.

Harrington, Jay. **“Beware the ‘Vanity Metric’ When Building Your Professional Network.”** *The American Lawyer*. Web. 5 Sep. 18.

<https://www.law.com/americanlawyer/2018/09/05/beware-the-vanity-metric-when-building-your-professional-network/> -- notes that “[i]n a world in which we’re told to chase more Facebook friends, Instagram and Twitter followers, and LinkedIn connections, it’s easy to lose sight of what the purpose of a professional network really is. Bigger isn’t necessarily better.”

### **3. OPPORTUNITY: FALL INTERNSHIPS, INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) IN BALTIMORE**

*For those of you interested in international law, and specifically international human rights law, consider the following internships at IRC in Baltimore:*

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Baltimore serves refugees and immigrants each year with resettlement, economic empowerment, health and youth, and immigration legal services.

IRC seeks committed, passionate and highly motivated individuals to support the IRC's mission. Interns support IRC staff and work, while also learning about the diverse refugee and immigrant populations in Baltimore. See <https://www.rescue.org/united-states/baltimore-md> for more information on the local office.

IRC is currently recruiting for internships with the following programs:

- Cultural orientation
- Entry level employment
- Family mentor volunteer program
- New Roots gardening and farmer's market program
- Resettlement case management
- Youth case management

Bilingual skills in languages of the populations served by the IRC are highly preferred (Spanish, Swahili, Tigrinya, Amharic, Arabic, French, Dari, Pashto).

See website for full position descriptions and qualifications. Minimum time commitment 16 hours/week for 12 weeks.

**HOW TO APPLY:** <https://www.rescue.org/careers>

Please check the [IRC careers site](#) for current internship openings. Applications through the career site are preferred. Applicants may also contact [VolunteerBaltimore@rescue.org](mailto:VolunteerBaltimore@rescue.org) with questions.

### **4. INTERVIEW: JEREMY GARSON, ESQ. '10, LEGAL COUNSEL AND ASSOCIATE PROJECT DIRECTOR, THE BRIDGE ALLIANCE**

Jeremy Garson is originally from Philadelphia. He graduated from Abington Friends School in 2006. Jeremy enrolled at Johns Hopkins without an intended major, but became a political

science major after taking Intro to American Politics. He also minored in psychology and was heavily involved in the Johns Hopkins University Theater with John Astin.

In December 2009, Jeremy graduated early in order to pursue a career in constituent services with former Congressman Joseph Sestak (PA-07), where he served as the Congressman's caseworker for veterans' affairs, taxes, and census services. In June 2010, Jeremy left that position to pursue a law degree – eventually enrolling at the University of Michigan Law School in 2011.

During his law school career, Jeremy earned the position of Article Editor with the Journal of Law Reform. He also served as treasurer, vice president, and social representative for the Frank Murphy Society of Law and Politics. During his last year, Jeremy clerked for the United Auto Workers (UAW) and – upon graduation – earned a fellowship with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). When that fellowship ended, Jeremy was hired by the labor law firm Woodley & McGillivray in Washington, D.C., where he worked as a litigation associate for a short time before transferring to serve as in-house counsel for the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF).

After a year and a half at the IAFF, Jeremy decided to leave the labor field and secured a job with the Bridge Alliance in November 2017 -- an organization dedicated to promoting and encouraging collaboration among organizations working to fix our nation's democratic institutions. Jeremy serves as legal counsel and associate project director at the Bridge Alliance.

## **Questions**

### **Describe a typical day as Legal Counsel and Associate Project Director, for The Bridge Alliance.**

It is difficult to describe a typical day in my job, because I have basically built my position according to my interests. My work can include writing updates for supporters and members; performing legal services in my capacity as in-house counsel; and editing the website in order to make it more helpful for members. A typical Tuesday includes publishing our “Weekly Update,” which goes out to all of our supporters and members and discusses important news in the reform movement. It also includes a virtual team meeting (we all work remotely) where we discuss what the next Update will include, as well as make decisions as a team and any other administrative work that needs to get done. Finally, I'm constantly responding to emails and generally just responding to the organization's needs on a daily basis.

### **What initially attracted you to this field? Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in pursuing this body of law?**

I have always been interested in reform. During law school, I only applied to the Journal of Law Reform, because it was the only Journal that piqued my interest. Based on my interest in changing the world for the better and my interest in politics, this field was a natural fit. If you are interested in pursuing this area of law, start familiarizing yourself with organizations in this field and apply for internships and fellowships. You definitely don't have to be a lawyer to get started. If you're interested, check out the Bridge Alliance's website and look at our [member organizations](#). A lot of them welcome volunteers, interns, and fellowships. You can also contact me, as I started an internship program at the Bridge Alliance.

### **What are some of the rewards and downsides of this area of law and the legal profession so far?**

The rewards of this area of law is that I feel like I could potentially make a real difference and change our nation for the better. The biggest downsides are the pay (a fraction of what I would earn in Big Law) and the fact that my job is not well defined (but I like that).

“The legal profession” is hard to define. There are so many different ways you can go with a legal degree. I will say that a big downside is that the options outside of law firm work are not intuitive. I got lucky to find my path. The biggest reward is that the skills I learned and refined in law school (writing, research, reading comprehension) are VERY valued and translatable to all areas of the professional world.

**What advice do you have for an undergraduate interested in pursuing law school and a career in law given your experience in today’s legal market and now as an attorney?**

Going to law school is a big commitment. It is very costly and there is no guarantee you will get a job out of law school. The odds are better if you go to a T-14 school, but it’s a very competitive field. Additionally, the “best jobs” (i.e. Big Law) will pay you a lot, but they *will* expect you to work hard to earn that pay. I don’t know many people who are happy in Big Law. If you don’t want to do Big Law, you have to get creative with your job search. That’s not fun unless and until it works.

Also, talk to some attorneys and try to get an internship. Find out what being a (typical) lawyer is about. It’s much more boring than a lot of people assume.

Finally, if you are thinking about going to law school because (1) you like what you see on TV, (2) you enjoy arguing, or (3) you want to get paid big....stop and reevaluate. Especially on the first point. The lawyers I know don’t watch legal dramas because they are so painfully inaccurate.

All that said, if you want to go to law school because you truly enjoy learning about the law and how to apply it, then go for it. I’m very happy that I went to law school, but I’m also a huge nerd.

**Contact Information:**

Jeremy is happy to answer questions and is reachable by email at: [Jeremy@bridgealliance.us](mailto:Jeremy@bridgealliance.us). He recommends the following links: Check out <https://www.bridgealliance.us/>. That’s my organization. Also, check out <https://abovethelaw.com/>. It’s just funny.

**5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Columbia Law School Information Session**

**Location:** TBD

**Date:** Monday, October 15, 2018

**Time:** 12pm to 1pm

**Description:** An admissions officer from Columbia Law School will present an information session and answer questions.

**Yale Law School Information Session**

**Location:** Mason Board Room

**Date:** Wednesday, October 17, 2018

**Time:** 12pm to 1pm

**Description:** Quinn Brown, Associate Director of Admission, will present an information session and answer questions.

**Personal Statement Workshop: George Washington Law School, UCLA School of Law and Cornell Law School Present**

**Location: Sherwood Room, Levering Hall**

**Date: Thursday, October 18, 2018**

**Time: 12pm to 1pm**

**Description: Admissions officers from George Washington Law School, UCLA School of Law and Cornell Law School will present a personal statement workshop, as well as information regarding each of their law school programs.**

**Georgetown University Law Center Group Interview**

***2019 Cycle/current applicants ONLY***

**Location: TBD**

**Date: Friday, November 9, 2018**

**Time: TBD**

**Description: Only for those applying for Fall 2019 J.D. admission, Andy Cornblatt, Dean of Admissions, will host a group interview. ADVANCED SIGN UP REQUIRED through: TBD.**

**STEM Majors: Considering a Career in the Law?**

***UC Berkeley Law School Information Session for STEM majors***

**Location: Student Financial Services, Room 143, Garland Lobby**

**Date: Thursday, November 15, 2018**

**Time: 12:00 pm to 1pm**

**Description: STEM Majors -- Considering a Career in the Law? Your science background can lead to a career at the intersection of law and technology. Intellectual property (who owns innovation), privacy, the accountability of algorithms, the control of online speech, the financing of clean tech -- these are among the many issues that lawyers will be deciding in coming years. Jim Dempsey, Executive Director of the UC Berkeley Center for Law & Technology, will discuss the curriculum, activities, and opportunities available at UC Berkeley Law and answer questions about pursuing a career as a lawyer with a STEM background.**

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

**Upcoming LSAT Administration**

**Location: Visit <http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/testing-locations> for testing location information.**

**Date: November 17, 2018 / January 26, 2019 / March 30, 2019**

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

~~~~~  
**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. Droskoski, 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/>