



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

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Friday, September 28, 2018

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

Concerned about the cost of law school?

What you borrow today to finance a professional school education can have a significant impact on your financial well-being tomorrow. On Tuesday, October 9 at 7:30pm, Sherry Mason, J.D., AFC®, Director, Pre-Law Services, AccessLex Institute will present a webinar entitled: **Maximizing Your Graduate School Dollars**. This one-hour interactive webinar will look at the financial aid process and the basics of student loans, interest accrual, and repayment. It will also discuss the importance of spending plans and strategies for reducing indebtedness while in law school.

To register visit:

<https://accesslexevents.webex.com/accesslexevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=ecc1734b16fa5b6eb2880da3cf1349a86>. The registration password is MAX2018.

2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA

Whitford Emma. **“How Undergrads Think About Law School.”** *Inside High Ed*. Web. 20 Sep. 18. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/09/20/students-want-pursue-law-give-back-are-discouraged-high-costs>. -- reports on the Before the JD report from AALS and Gallup: "Undergraduates considering a law degree are motivated by a desire to contribute to the public good, but high costs and work-life balance concerns deter some of them."

Kreighbaum, Andrew. **“New Data on Public Service Loan Forgiveness.”** *Inside Higher Ed*. Web. 20 Sep. 18. <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2018/09/20/new-data-public-service-loan-forgiveness> -- reports that the "Education Department received about 28,000 applications for Public Service Loan Forgiveness as of June 30 of this year but so far has approved just under 300 applications for loan discharge."

Kreighbaum, Andrew. "DeVos Gets Another Chance on Obama Loan Rule." *Inside Higher Ed*. Web. 18 Sep. 18. <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2018/09/18/devos-gets-another-chance-obama-loan-rule> -- "The Department of Education has until October 12 to offer a stronger justification for delaying an Obama student loan rule issued to help defrauded borrowers."

3. OPPORTUNITY: DEMOCRACY REVITALIZATION INTERN (REMOTE POSITION), THE BRIDGE ALLIANCE

Organization: The Bridge Alliance (bridgealliance.us)

Job Title: Democracy Revitalization Intern

Job Type: Unpaid internship

Location: Any -- Remote Position

Hours: Negotiable -- at least 15 hours per week

Duration: Flexible

Description: The Bridge Alliance is a growing movement of more than 80 democracy revitalization organizations working individually and together to transform the political terrain. The Bridge Alliance itself provide essential infrastructure and investment for our member organizations to connect and collaborate on projects that further shared goals to generate a collective impact far greater than any one group could make alone.

We are looking for an undergraduate intern who can assist with the myriad of tasks necessary to maintaining and expanding the Bridge Alliance's work. The intern will have the opportunity to join our weekly team calls and write blog posts, as well as learn about how an ambitious non-profit organization operates and develops over time. The Bridge Alliance is willing to fill out paperwork to secure school credits for the intern.

The ideal intern will be a self-starter with excellent attention to detail. They need to be an excellent communicator, both verbally and in writing. They should also have a demonstrated interest in the democracy revitalization movement. This internship is also great for somebody with creative, problem-solving skills, as there will be opportunities to propose new ideas and execute them.

Additionally the intern would have the opportunity to attend the "Members Summit" in mid-October, which will feature many member organizations as well as a number of prominent journalists, foundations, and academics.

Please note that the Bridge Alliance does not have a physical office location, so interested candidates must have personal access to a laptop or computer and a reliable internet connection.

If you are interested in this position, please email a cover letter, resume, and writing sample to Jeremy Spear Garson, Esq. '10, Legal Counsel and Associate Project Director, at jeremy@bridgealliance.us.

4. INTERVIEW: MACK ABBEDUTO, HOMICIDE LAW CLERK, STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR BALTIMORE CITY

Mack Abbeduto was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, graduating from a local high school there in 2008. Due to a nascent interest in politics and law, Mack decided to attend the George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, D.C. While at GWU, Mack majored in History and Criminal Justice, while interning in various legal offices around the city. He graduated from GWU in 2012.

Mack began law school at Georgetown University Law Center (Georgetown Law) in the fall of 2012. While at Georgetown Law Mack focused his studies on Criminal Law and International Law. He took advantage of Georgetown Law's legal study abroad program and attended the consortium school, the Center for Transnational Legal Studies, in London, England. After his second year of law school, Mack worked as a summer law clerk for the law firm of Kelley, Drye, and Warren, and subsequently accepted an offer of employment from the firm after graduating from Georgetown Law in 2015.

While at Kelley Drye, Mack worked as an associate in the firm's commercial litigation division. Mack's caseload touched upon a large range of legal areas including antitrust, environmental, trademark infringement, trade secret appropriation, Medicare fraud, and class action litigation. After a year and a half at Kelley Drye, Mack decided to follow his interest in criminal law and accepted a position as a Law Clerk in the Homicide Division of the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City. In the fall of 2018, Mack was promoted to Assistant State's Attorney.

Questions

Describe a typical day as a Homicide Law Clerk in the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City.

The most engaging aspect of life in a prosecutor's office is that one-day is never like another. Generally as a Homicide Law Clerk, we are assigned to many cases at a time, each one of which is staffed with a lead prosecutor. My job as a Law Clerk is to do anything and everything to assist the lead prosecutor. This can include legal research, writing pre-trial motions, finding witnesses who are lost in the court house, going over opening statements and closing arguments, or sitting in on trial prep meetings and giving feedback regarding the direction of the case. A typical day includes a lot of running around to different court houses in downtown Baltimore, as well as sitting at my desk delving into a research question or a motion that needs to be written.

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

What initially attracted me to criminal law were the ethical and policy questions that are unavoidable in almost every decision. Whether its recommending a sentence for a defendant, choosing whether or not to bring certain charges, deciding in what direction to push the investigation, each and every decision has far reaching consequences for the individuals involved and the community at large. What has fortified my decision to enter the field of criminal law is the practical implications. Prosecutors are given a lot of discretion in the criminal justice system. Being a part of the team that works to exercise that discretion in an ethical and empathic manner has been extremely rewarding. On a daily basis I see the real world effects of my office's decisions, whether it is placing someone on the path to rehabilitation, seeing the

relief on the faces of victims' family members who know justice was achieved in their case, or by simply knowing that a case was worked with diligence, care, and empathy.

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?

The most surprising aspect of criminal law practice is the pace of it. People warn you that criminal litigation moves fast, but until you are actually in it, it is impossible to grasp the speed at which things happen. My experience in civil practice was a lesson in prolonged fastidiousness, whereas criminal law has taught me how to be efficient and effective even if given almost no time to complete a task. This also leads into the major downside of criminal law; namely, that you wish you had more time. It is such an interesting field and there are so many questions that come up that you wish you would have more time to delve into but you don't. You just have to keep moving.

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

The best thing that you can do is intern in the areas of law in which you are interested. The reality of the legal profession, like most professions, is that the actual practice of it is vastly different than what you read about it. To see people in the job you one day want is the best window into whether or not you will actually like that job day in and day out. Absent the opportunity to get an internship in the area of law you are interested in, the second best path is to pursue outside research into the area. Try to find talks in DC or Baltimore, or even online, by people whose position you would one day like to have. Listen to what makes them excited about their jobs, what they find fascinating, and what they find boring. If they captivate you it is a good sign that you are on the right track.

Contact Information:

Mack is happy to answer questions and is reachable by email at: mack.atteduto@gmail.com. He recommends the following links: <http://www.scotusblog.com/> and <https://reason.com/volokh>.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maximizing Your Graduate School Dollars

(for pre-health & pre-law students)

Location: Webinar

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Time: 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Description: What you borrow today to finance a professional school education can have a significant impact on your financial well-being tomorrow. In this one-hour interactive webinar, we'll look at the financial aid process and the basics of student loans, interest accrual, and repayment. We'll also discuss the importance of spending plans and strategies for reducing indebtedness while in law school or medical school. Sherry Mason, J.D., AFC®, Director, Pre-Law Services, AccessLex Institute will present. To register visit:

<https://accesslexevents.webex.com/accesslexevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=ecc1734b16fa5b6eb2880da3cf1349a86>. The registration password is MAX2018.

Columbia Law School Information Session

Location: Bloomberg 168

Date: Monday, October 15, 2018

Time: 12 pm to 1 pm

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: 12 pm to 1 pm

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: 12 pm to 1 pm

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: Gilman 17

Date: Friday, November 9, 2018

Time: 2 pm to 3 pm

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: TBA.

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.

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**STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING**

Kelli R. Johnson, J.D., Director

Ana L. Drososki, 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. Drososki, 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/>