1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

As some of you may already know, the LSAT was one of the last standing standardized tests administered on paper. Over the summer, the LSAT will finally begin transitioning to a digital format. From the LSAC website: "The Digital LSAT is the same multiple-choice exam as the paper-and-pencil LSAT, delivered on easy-to-use tablets instead of booklets. The tablets will be provided to test takers at the test center. The content will be the same and the structure of the test sections and the questions will be the same as the current LSAT. The tablet offers great features such as a timer with a five-minute warning, highlighting, and flagging to keep track of questions that you may want to revisit in a section.

The transition to the Digital LSAT will begin in July 2019, when approximately half of the test takers will be assigned to take the test on a tablet provided by LSAC, and the other approximate half will take the traditional paper-and-pencil test.

After the July 2019 test, the LSAT will be digital in North America starting September 2019."

For more information about the changes to the LSAT and shift to a digital version, visit: https://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/about-digital-lsat
2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA


3. OPPORTUNITY: PARALEGAL, AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU) FOUNDATION, PROGRAM ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF, WASHINGTON, DC

If you are looking for a gap year opportunity in public interest law, please consider the following position:

For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has been our nation's guardian of liberty, working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States. Whether it's ending mass incarceration, achieving full equality for the LGBT community, establishing new privacy protections for our digital age, or preserving the right to vote or the right to have an abortion, the ACLU takes up the toughest civil liberties cases and issues to defend all people from government abuse and overreach. With more than one million members, activists, and supporters, the ACLU is a nationwide organization that fights tirelessly in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C., for the principle that every individual's rights must be protected equally under the law, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, or record of arrest or conviction.
The Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief of the ACLU's National office in Washington, DC seeks applicants for the full-time position of Paralegal.

OVERVIEW

From its earliest days supporting conscientious objectors to war and defending John Scopes in the infamous "Monkey Trial" of 1925, the ACLU has worked tirelessly to defend the right to religious liberty nationwide. Today, the national ACLU's Program on Freedom Religion and Belief protects this fundamental right by helping to ensure that governmental laws and practices neither promote religion nor interfere with its free exercise. The Program fights to preserve religious freedom and the right of individual conscience through an integrated strategy of litigation, education, and public advocacy.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Receive requests for legal assistance and ensure timely responses to inquiries.
- Cite-check, format, and proofread documents, including legal briefs, memoranda, demand letters, and other correspondence.
- Assist in carrying out other litigation-related tasks, including drafting and editing discovery requests and responses, reviewing evidence, and preparing for depositions.
- Conduct Internet and other factual research in connection with prospective or ongoing litigation, policy matters, or public education efforts.
- Assist the Program attorneys with legislative tracking and related research.
- Maintain and ensure the accuracy of the Program's litigation docket and calendar, and organize and maintain litigation and policy files.
- Assist in the development and maintenance of the Program's website and other public information outlets.
- Work with other national ACLU projects, ACLU state affiliates nationwide, and allies.
- Assist Program staff regarding strategic planning and related matters.
- Work on special projects and other duties as assigned by the Director and staff attorneys.
- Demonstrate a commitment to diversity within the office using a personal approach that values all individuals and respects differences in regards to race, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religion, ability, and socio-economic circumstance.
- Commitment to work collaboratively and respectfully toward resolving obstacles and/or conflicts.
- Commitment to the ACLU mission.

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

- A Bachelor’s degree is required. One year of paralegal, or related experience, is preferred.
- Excellent research and Internet research skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Must take initiative, be highly organized, detail-oriented and possess strong interpersonal and time-management skills.
- Strong computer skills with advanced knowledge in Microsoft Office Suite e.g. Outlook, Word, Excel, etc. Basic knowledge of Westlaw is preferred.
- Experience creating tables of contents, tables of authorities, mail merges, and creating/inserting macros.
- Ability to work independently as well as within a team.
- Demonstrated interest in religious liberty issues is preferred.

COMPENSATION

The ACLU offers a generous and comprehensive compensation and benefits package, commensurate with experience and within parameters of the ACLU compensation scale.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested persons should submit a cover letter, resume, a legal or academic writing sample (your writing sample will not be returned) and the names of three (3) references to HRJobsPFRB@aclu.org. Reference [PFRB-03] in the subject line. Please note that this is not the general ACLU applicant email address. This email address is specific to Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief postings. In order to ensure your application is received please make certain it is sent to the correct e-mail address. You can expect to receive an automatic response that acknowledges the submission of application materials.

Please indicate in your cover letter where you learned of this career opportunity. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. For more information and the complete listing, visit: https://www.idealist.org/en/nonprofit-job/45f69da9a95a4b7a9c2066b33cdc2607-paralegal-pfrb-03-program-on-freedom-of-religion-belief-dc-american-civil-liberties-union-washington.

4. INTERVIEW: DEVON A. CORNEAL, JUDICIAL LAW CLERK, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Devon Corneal is originally from State College, Pennsylvania. She graduated from State College Area High School in 1990, and then attended The College of William and Mary from 1990-1994, where she played collegiate volleyball for a season before leaving the team to focus on her studies. Devon graduated with a double major in Religion and Comparative Politics, which means she had nothing to talk about at the dinner table for a very long time.

Looking to follow her interest in children's issues, Devon enrolled in the graduate program of Human Development and Family Studies at the Pennsylvania State University in 1994. There, she studied child and adolescent development and family relationships, with an emphasis on adolescence. To that end, she worked as a research assistant for numerous projects and as a Prevention Research Fellow in what is now the Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center. After receiving her M.S. in 1997, Devon was named a Presidential Management Fellow and spent two years with the United States Department of Health and Human Services using her research background to assist in the development, coordination, and analysis of policies relating to children, youth, and families and with the American Bar Association's Juvenile
Justice Center developing grant proposals for initiatives for the National Juvenile Defenders Training Center. This experience clarified her long-held desire to pursue a law degree, but worried that she was too old to start law school, she consulted with a trusted mentor who bluntly told her, “Well, in three years you’re going to be thirty-one no matter what you do, so you might as well go.” It turned out to be very good advice. Devon enrolled in the Seton Hall School of Law in 2000.

During her law school career, Devon was a University Scholar and Managing Editor of the Law Review. Devon came to love oral advocacy and was named Best Oral Advocate and, with her partner, won First Place in the William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition in 2003. She also was named Best Oral Advocate, won Best Brief, and was a finalist in Seton Hall’s Gressman Moot Court Competition in 2002. Devon won the Advanced Student Writing Award for best scholarly paper by a graduating student, was a member of The Order of the Coif, and graduated magna cum laude from Seton Hall in 2003.

From there Devon clerked for the Honorable Joseph E. Irenas, United States District Court for the District of New Jersey and then for the Honorable Walter K. Stapleton, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. In 2005, Devon accepted a position as a litigation associate with the law firm of Sidley Austin, LLP focusing on appellate law and civil litigation. Devon remained in private practice at Sidley Austin and then Patton Boggs LLP until 2013, when she left the legal world to pursue her passion for writing. For two years, Devon's articles on child development, family relationships, parenting, education, poverty, health/wellness, children's literacy, and the intersection between women's personal and professional lives appeared in nationally recognized publications including the Huffington Post, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Real Simple, Cosmopolitan, and Penguin Random House's website ReadBrightly.com.

Just when she thought she had left the law for good, in 2015, Devon got an unexpected opportunity to return to the federal family as a law clerk for the Honorable Susan D. Wigenton, United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Proving she knows a good thing when she sees it, Devon jumped at the chance and put aside freelancing for a new challenge. She's never looked back. Devon is now Judge Wigenton's permanent law clerk and spends her days writing opinions; communicating with litigants and counsel; preparing for and attending trials, interviewing, hiring, and working with interns; and occasionally, when she's very lucky, eating her colleagues' amazing baked goods. Her docket includes media worthy criminal matters (Bridgegate, Michael “The Situation” Sorrentino), fairly mundane contract disputes, and everything in between. She's learned to expect the unexpected and to appreciate the fact that clerking gives her the opportunity to do what she loves best about the law – wrangle with interesting and meaningful questions to reach an equitable and just decision. The fact that she doesn't have to bill her time anymore is an added bonus. Devon hopes that she is proof that no matter how winding your path, and no matter how eclectic your interests, if you choose wisely, the law can be a challenging, rewarding, and fulfilling career.

Describe a day in the life of a career clerk.

I'm a morning person, so I tend to get in to Chambers at 8 a.m. before anyone else arrives so I have time to look through our docket, have a cup of tea, and prepare for the day. Mid-morning I meet with the Judge to address any issues that need to be handled, and then spend most of
my day writing. Because our docket includes civil and criminal cases, every day is different, which keeps things interesting. I use our interns to help with legal research and work with my fellow clerks to untangle any thorny legal questions. Chambers is a very collaborative and collegial place, so I have the great privilege of working closely with extremely talented people every day. Several times a week we're in court for trials, oral arguments, sentencings, pleas, and arraignments. Because I start early, I tend to leave the office by 5 p.m.

What initially attracted you to this field? Describe your career path.

I was initially attracted to the law because I wanted to become a juvenile defender and work on children's issues through the courts. When I went to law school I realized I loved everything about the law – from civil procedure to constitutional questions to international human rights. I also did well in my courses, which opened doors I didn't think were available, like multiple federal clerkships and the opportunity to do high level appellate work at a firm. After many years of private practice, though, I realized the intense pressure and tight deadlines of firm life were not for me and, thankfully, I was able to return to clerking which allows me to balance my personal life with richly rewarding and challenging professional work.

What are some of the rewards and downsides of this area of law and the legal profession?

Clerking is a fantastic job if you: 1) enjoy learning about new areas of the law on a fairly regular basis; 2) are a people person who can work collaboratively in an intimate environment; 3) are self-motivated and independent; 4) enjoy writing and can juggle multiple writing projects at one time; 5) want to balance your personal and professional lives. The only downside I see is that you won't make as much money as you will at a law firm, but I've learned that a law firm salary comes at a price.

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

I think my advice is the same for anyone entering the legal profession, whether it's clerking or private practice or policy work, is the same. Hold tight to what interests you and what your goals are and pursue them no matter how many distractions come your way. If you want to work in big law – go for it. If you'd prefer to do policy work – focus on that. If your heart is set on public interest work – don't let anyone talk you out of it. It's easy to get distracted by big salaries or prestigious positions and miss out on the chance to pursue your passion or create a niche for yourself that will provide you with long-term satisfaction. At the same time, be open to all possibilities. The law offers so many opportunities – things you may never have even considered, so keep your eyes open and be flexible.

Contact Information

Devon is happy to answer questions and is reachable by email at:
Devon_Corneal@njd.uscourts.gov
5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING LSAT ADMINISTRATIONS

Dates: June 3, 2019 / July 15, 2019 / September 21, 2019

Testing Locations: [http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/testing-locations](http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/testing-locations)

Register: [https://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/registering-lsat](https://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/registering-lsat)

JHU PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING OFFICE STAFF

Kelli R. Johnson, J.D., Director
Ana L. Droscoski, J.D., Associate Director
Ellen Snydman, 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)

Pre-Professional Advising helps students make informed decisions in their pre-health or pre-law course planning and navigate the application process.