1. Message from Ana L. Drocoski, Esq.

The Johns Hopkins Pre-Law Society (PLS) is looking for new members that are passionate about the law and looking for ways to become more involved. The application cycle will end on December 8 at 11:59pm. Questions about the organization or the application? Emailing them at prelawsocietyjhu@gmail.com or message their Facebook page @jhuprelawsociety.

Additionally, PLS will be hosting their first Hopkins Pre-Law Alumni Panel on December 4 at 6:30pm in the Mason Hall Auditorium!

Find out what a career in the legal field is like from JHU alumni. Panelists will be discussing their individual career paths and personal experiences after graduating from Hopkins. The panel will be open to any questions that you might have about the admissions process, gap year(s), law school, and the legal field itself. Following the panel, there will be free food and time to speak with the panelists one-on-one.

Whether you are 100% sure about a career in the law, or not sure at all, this is a great event to help you navigate your own future.

Stay tuned for panelist announcements leading up to the event, found here: https://facebook.com/events/521894018362112/?ti=icl

This will be the final JHU Pre-Law eNewsletter of the Fall 2019 semester.

Happy Thanksgiving!
2. LEGAL EDUCATION & THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN THE MEDIA


The Law School Admission Council and Street Law have announced that they are collaborating on "a first-of-its-kind effort to connect and support law-themed high schools and, in turn, increase access to legal education."


3. OPPORTUNITY: SPRING OR SUMMER 2020 INTERNSHIP, MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) offers a hands-on experience for current undergraduate, paralegal studies, and graduate students to assist in the client-centered and team-based representation of OPD clients. This unparalleled experience allows interns to be fully incorporated into OPD's innovative and strategic approach to aggressive litigation and comprehensive advocacy.

OPD is a large organization that provides an array of opportunities for students. The vast majority of intern work in District offices assisting our trial attorneys in the representation of adult and juvenile clients in criminal cases. OPD has 12 District offices spread across the State of Maryland. If you are interested in trial work you want to request placement with one of the District offices (the specific office would depend on your geographical preferences and transportation).

Some of OPD's more specialized divisions also provide internship opportunities. These smaller divisions offer a unique opportunity to work closely with a smaller group of attorneys
in a more highly specialized area of the law. The following offices host interns (please note the location of these offices in parentheses):

Criminal Trial (All Locations)
Post Conviction Defenders (Baltimore City)
Parental Defense (Rockville, Upper Marlboro, Baltimore City, Towson, Snow Hill)
Forensics (Baltimore City)
Mental Health Division (Baltimore County)
Juvenile (All locations)

For more information and to apply, visit: http://www.opd.state.md.us/college-students

4. INTERVIEW: ARYAN WEISENFELD, PATENT EXAMINER

Aryan Weisenfeld is originally from St. Louis, Missouri, where he graduated from high school in 2004. After enrolling at Washington University in St. Louis, not quite sure what direction to take, he chose biology as a major after taking classes related to genetics and neuroscience. He was involved in the executive committee of club sports, as well as the captain of the racquetball team. As graduation approached in 2008, Aryan was still undecided about what career path to take, considering law, medicine, or pursuing a PhD in biology. After learning more about what law school entailed, as well as career paths within law to make use of his biology degree and stay connected to the scientific community, he enrolled in law school at WashU.

While in law school, Aryan served as a staff editor for the Jurisprudence Review, during his 2L year, before spending his 3L year as an extern for a patent firm in Alexandria, Virginia, and then completing a study abroad program at Korea University before graduation.

After graduation, Aryan was hired by the U.S Patent Office (USPTO) in Alexandria where he has been ever since. Aryan’s roles at the Patent Office have included tasks relate to patent examination, review of junior employees work product, and delivering trainings and presentations related to patent law rules and statutes. He is currently working on a master’s degree in computer science.

Describe a day in the life of a patent examiner.

One of the best parts of my job is that my day is very flexible. I can essentially start and end my day at my own choosing, so long as during any given two week period, I complete the work assigned and hours required. When I was focusing on examining patent applications, I would get to work, sort through my docket, and pick up a new case to analyze. This would consist of reading the application to understand what the invention was, as well as performing searches to become more familiar with the relevant technology, and see if any other similar inventions are out there. After this, I would write a response (an “Office Action”) to the applicant, which would address compliance with relevant patent statutes. These days, I am doing what is called a ‘Detail’ assignment, which is a career development opportunity to do something different. In my case, most of my work now focuses on training newer examiners, as well as reviewing
their work and attending meetings with them. While my day is far less flexible (on any given day, I have to sit in on 3-5 meetings with junior examiners), it is very rewarding to be able to explain not only how to do the job, but why what we do is important.

**What initially attracted you to this field?**

Being a biology major, I wanted something that would keep me connected with the scientific community and allow me time to keep up with the latest technological advances. After researching several career paths, including the alluring world of corporate law, I saw patent law as being a nice blend between applying regulatory guidelines and helping to advance innovation. I completed an externship at a private law firm where I saw firsthand how much science knowledge and research was necessary to adequately advance prosecution of inventors’ applications. The USPTO, in particular, is also a great place to work with a highly collegial environment, and supervisors who support you and want you to succeed. It also affords the possibility of working in other parts of the Office which deal with any aspect of patent law you can imagine.

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

The good parts vastly outweigh the downsides. The work is flexible, engaging, and cutting-edge. There are very few other areas of law where you constantly get to review new ideas and inventions, and are constantly learning about not only law, but technology, too. Patent law offers the ability to do regulatory work, such as enforcing statutes, as well as litigation if cases need to be argued in front of a judicial body. To be honest, I do not see many downsides to a career in patent law - and even the law profession in general, while many will speak of the demanding hours, as long as you know what type of person you are, you will be able to find a job that is the right fit. If you are someone who likes to work long hours, then you will have several big law firms to pick from, but if not, there is no shortage of small to medium-sized firms that do quality, interesting work, and are comprised of smart, caring people. The same goes for governmental bodies.

**Do you have any advice for undergraduates pursuing this body of law and the legal profession?**

My advice would be to learn as much about science and technology as possible. This is obviously useful and necessary for a career in patent law, but it also is a desirable quality for pursuing other legal fields because law, like science, requires analytical thinking. Any major will be helpful to your future, but I find most aspiring attorneys pick a political science or government major because they think it is the closest to law. While this might be true, and definitely pursue that major if it is what interests you the most, do not close off other majors as they can provide you with skillsets that will make you a great attorney.

**Contact Info.:**

Aryan is happy to answer questions and is reachable by email at aew328@gmail.com.
5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

NYU Law Online Information Sessions

NYU Law invites you to learn more about the law school application process and NYU Law's offerings through an online information session. These presentations will be a special broadcast of a live information session with an admissions representative. Participants will have an opportunity to submit questions about NYU's curriculum, student life, and the admissions process via our online chat tool. The Online Information Sessions will be held at the following times (all times are Eastern Time):

- Friday, December 6 at 3:00 pm
- Friday, January 10 at 12:00 pm

Register for one of the sessions here: https://nyu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3lY8HYIvDhjW9r7

Upcoming LSAT Administrations

**Dates:** November 25, 2019 / January 13, 2020 / February 22, 2020

**Testing Locations:** https://tcs.lsac.org/SearchCenter.aspx

Register: https://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/registering-lsat

JHU PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING OFFICE STAFF

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