



## Student Services Weekly Newsletter

Offices of Career Services, Student Services and Academic Affairs  
Week Beginning Sunday, March 29, 2009

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## **3Ls: Program On Obtaining State Public Defender Appointments; And Other Ways To Earn Money While Looking For A Permanent Job**

On Friday, April 10, at 11 a.m. in Room 3250, Deb Smith, the attorney in charge of the "private bar, assigned counsel" section of the Wisconsin State Public Defender's office, will talk to May 2009 graduates about what steps they need to take to get on the assigned counsel appointment list. For graduates who plan to stay in Wisconsin and look for permanent jobs here, this can be an excellent way to gain some legal experience and earn some money while continuing the job search. Also at this program, Professor Gretchen Viney will discuss how an attorney goes about becoming qualified to receive guardian ad litem appointments, and an attorney from Judicare will describe how that organization assigns cases to members of the private bar.

## **1Ls & 2Ls: Information/Orientation Session About Fall On-Campus Interviewing Program**

At **11 a.m. on Friday, April 10**, in Room 2260, the Career Services Office will be presenting an informational session to describe how the fall on-campus interviewing program works and to answer students' questions about it, as well as about the three Off-Campus recruitment programs that our students are eligible to participate in (in New York, DC, and Los Angeles) every August. This session is primarily aimed at first-year students, but any 2Ls who did not participate in fall OCI in 2008 and therefore are unfamiliar with the program are welcome to attend as well.

## **3Ls: Inexpensive Way to Prepare for the Multistate Bar Exam and the MPRE**

The National Conference of Bar Examiners has just released a second online Multi-state Bar Exam practice examination. This study aid, called the MBE Online Practice Exam 2, joins its earlier release, the MBE-AP, which has now been renamed the MBE Online Practice Exam 1 but is otherwise unchanged. The NCBE has developed these two practice tests in order to make high-quality, authentic MBE test materials available to bar examinees at a nominal

cost. Each online practice exam is priced at \$26 for a one-year subscription that allows unlimited use of the online product by the candidate. These study materials are available on the NCBE website, <http://www.ncbex.org>.

In addition, the National Conference of Bar Examiners has also just announced the release of an online Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) practice examination. This study aid, called the MPRE Online Practice Exam 1 (MPRE-OPE 1) is available now on the NCBE website, [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org). It consists of 60 items and is therefore the same length as an actual MPRE. Each online MPRE practice exam is priced at \$24 for a one-year subscription that allows unlimited use of the online product by the candidate. The MPRE-OPE 1 is comprised of questions previously appearing on actual MPREs, and includes annotations that explain the reason that each of the four multiple-choice options is correct or incorrect. (FYI: The next two dates in 2009 when the MPRE will be offered are August 7 and November 7, 2009).

## **Thinking of Hanging Out a Shingle?**

If so, be sure to plan to attend the program on "Starting Your Own Law Practice," which is scheduled for noon in Room 5240 on Thursday, April 9. Recent graduates who started their own law firms will talk to current 3Ls about the challenges and rewards of opening one's own law practice, and offer "how to" advice.

## **Post-Graduate Judicial Clerkships: Nuts and Bolts Information Sessions**

If you are interested in applying for post-graduate judicial clerkships, Kristin Davis in the Career Services Office will be hosting programming on numerous relevant topics. These information sessions will answer many of your questions about researching judges, creating competitive applications, the timing of applications, and the process of applying generally. In addition to attending these programs, you are also encouraged to make an individual appointment with Kristin, before you leave for the summer, to discuss the specifics of your application strategy.

The following programs will be given twice; you need only attend one, as the programs will cover the same material:

### **Creating a Competitive Clerkship Application**

Tuesday, March 31, 10-11 a.m., Room 3268  
Wednesday, April 1, 3-4 p.m., Room 3268

### **Researching Judges and Opportunities**

Tuesday, April 14, 10-11 a.m., Room 5215  
Wednesday, April 15, 3-4 p.m., Room 5240

### **Navigating the On-Line Application Process for Federal Judges**

Tuesday, April 21, 10-11 a.m., Room 3268  
Wednesday, April 22, 3-4 p.m., Room 3268

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin at [kristindavis@wisc.edu](mailto:kristindavis@wisc.edu).

## **Join the Judicial Clerkship Listserv for Important Announcements on Clerking**

If you will be applying for post-graduate clerkships this summer and fall, please contact Kristin Davis ([kristindavis@wisc.edu](mailto:kristindavis@wisc.edu)) to be added to the judicial clerkship email listserv. As a member of the listserv, you will receive important announcements about programming, opportunities, deadlines, and other information relevant to the clerkship application process.

## **April Fools! Don't Let Your Student Debt Have the Last Laugh (April 1)**

**At 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1st**

***Overwhelmed by your student debt?*** Attend one of two workshops to learn how to manage your student debt and still have fun in law school and after.

### **Workshop 1 - Debt Relief Post-Graduation - Room 2260**

Learn about post-graduation resources such as the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) and LRAP, so you can pursue the legal job of your dreams and pay off your debt. Geared toward graduating students.

### **Workshop 2 - Managing Debt in Law School - Room 3253**

Learn about how to choose the best student loans, cheap options for having fun in Madison, scholarships, part-time jobs and writing competitions to help reduce the costs of law school. Geared toward 1Ls and 2Ls.

The event is sponsored by PILF, Ruth Robarts, SBA and WLSA.

## **Bill Drafting: Transforming Ideas into Legislation (April 2)**

**Thursday, April 2, at 3:30 p.m. in room 3253**

Attorneys Gordon M. Malaise and Robin L. Ryan from the Legislative Reference Bureau will walk through the bill drafting process from identifying the problem and devising a solution to drafting language that solves the problem with clarity and precision. The presenters will also illustrate the importance of clear and precise bill drafting by discussing recent cases employing the canons of statutory interpretation to discern legislative intent.

Mr. Malaise (J.D., NYU; B.A., Grinnell College) has over twenty years of experience in bill drafting, including two years as a Peace Corps Legal Adviser in the Solomon Islands, and has presented trainings for judges, attorneys, legislative staffers, public managers, and high school, college, and law students on bill drafting, statutory interpretation, legal ethics, and researching legislative history.

Robin Ryan (J.D. and M.P.A., University of Texas at Austin; B.A., Harvard University) has been a drafting attorney for the Legislative Reference Bureau for nine years, specializing in health, criminal law, military affairs, and gambling. Before this, she worked in child welfare at the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, first as a budget analyst, then as an administrator.

This event is co-sponsored by the Legal Research and Writing Program, the Individualized Instruction Service (IIS), and Career Services.

## **2009 LexisNexis Prepare to Practice Program - Employment Preparation Classes**

Most employers require or strongly encourage incoming associates and summer law clerks to take advantage of Lexis classes offered at their law schools. Regardless of what you are doing this summer, LexisNexis has a large variety of class topics available to improve your research skills and introduce you to sources and products you may be using this summer. Earn over 1000 Lexis Reward points! Twelve different class topics are currently available to help you prepare for your summer or post-graduate job. Earn 600 Reward points for first optional class for semester, 600 for the second, and 200 Reward points for additional classes (up to 5). Some highlights include: "Cost Effective Research" -- the most popular and highly-recommended class by employers.

There are also "Area of Law" courses in the areas of Labor and Employment; Intellectual Property; Tax; Litigation; Corporate/Securities; and Judicial Clerkships; as well as State Law classes (New York, Illinois, California); as well as Basic and Advanced Certification. Register on your MySchool tab at [www.lexis.com/lawschool](http://www.lexis.com/lawschool) Note: If there is a date/time conflict with the class you want, or you are in need of a different topic, schedule an individual session. Simply email [carolyn.bach@lexisnexis.com](mailto:carolyn.bach@lexisnexis.com).

## Important Dates for Fall Interviewing Season

First and second year students should keep in mind the following dates when making summer plans: The Cook County Minority Job Fair will take place in Chicago on Friday, August 21. Our own fall On-Campus Interview Program will begin on Monday, August 24. The DuPont Minority Job Fairs will be held in Houston, Los Angeles, and Wilmington, Delaware, on August 8th. These and quite a few other off-campus job fairs and recruiting programs that UW Law School students are eligible to register for (including the "Off Campus Recruitment Programs" in NY, DC and LA -- see related article below) are described on our website at <http://www.law.wisc.edu/career/jobfairs.htm> Be sure to pay careful attention to the student registration deadlines!

## 1Ls & 2Ls: Register Now for Off-Campus Recruitment Programs in Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C. in August

Every August, our law school participates, along with the University of Minnesota Law School and the University of Iowa Law School, in Off-Campus Recruitment (OCI) Programs in New York, D.C., and Los Angeles. In 2009, these programs are scheduled for the following dates: West Coast (in Los Angeles) on Friday, August 14; Washington, D.C. on Wednesday August 19; and New York on Friday August 21. If you think you MIGHT want to participate in one or more of these interviewing programs, please send an email message by April 1 to Kate McMahan at [kemcmahan@wisc.edu](mailto:kemcmahan@wisc.edu), giving her your name, your class year as of Fall 2009 (2L or 3L), your expected graduation date, your wisc.edu email address, and your cell phone number that you will use this summer. Registering does not obligate you to attend any of these programs; it merely enables you to obtain access to the Symplicity site that the Off-Campus Recruitment Programs use so that you can bid and sign up for interviews this summer if you choose to do so.

## Applications Available for the 2010-2012 ABA Section of Taxation Public Service Fellowship Program

The American Bar Association Section of Taxation is pleased to announce that the application period for its 2010-2012 Public Service Fellowship Program is now open. Applications must be received by August 1, 2009, to be considered. Applicants selected for interviews will be invited to attend the Section's meeting in Chicago on September 25-26, 2009, and asked to participate in interviews on September 26, 2009. The Public Service Fellowship Program, which began in 2008, reflects the Section's desire to advance public service efforts in tax law, and to foster a more fair and equitable tax system. The Section recognizes the need for funding and fostering recent law school graduates or judicial clerks who wish to dedicate some portion of their professional careers to public service in tax. For more information about the program, go to: <http://www.abanet.org/tax/awards/publicservice/>.

## Military Recruiting on Campus this Spring

The JAG Corps of various branches of the U.S. military will be interviewing here at the Law School this spring. Although the U.S. military's practice of not hiring openly gay individuals does not comply with the policies of the University of Wisconsin Law School, representatives of the U.S. military are nevertheless permitted to interview at the Law School because of the loss of federal funds to the University that would otherwise be imposed under federal statutes, commonly known as the Solomon Amendment. Set forth below is an excerpt from Dean Kenneth Davis's 2005 letter to the Law School community on this topic:

Congress has adopted a provision, known as the Solomon Amendment, which requires schools to provide the military with full access to students for recruitment purposes or risk termination of certain federal funds. This provision has been interpreted to place at risk not simply any federal grant and contract funds of the Law School, but those of the entire University of Wisconsin. The Law School thus permits on-campus interviewing by military recruiters for pragmatic reasons. The presence of military interviewers within the Law School should not be misunderstood to reflect a decision by the faculty to endorse the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, or to tolerate discrimination in any form. I want to reiterate the commitment of the faculty, administrators and staff to making the Law

School, and the Office of Career Services, a welcoming and supportive place for all our students. The fact that these interviews will occur does not mean that the Law School has retreated in any way from our strongly held view that our gay, lesbian and bisexual students should be able to seek any and every job for which they are qualified, and that they should be allowed to serve in those jobs with honesty, integrity and pride.

I want to underscore that the Law School is opposed to discrimination, not to military service. Generations of our students and alumni have served in the military; many are serving today. We are proud of them and grateful to all the men and women of the Armed Services for the sacrifices they make to defend this nation. It is because we hold the military in high regard that we believe it is especially important for all students to have equal access to the exceptional opportunities offered by the military to serve our country. We at the Law School cannot, alone, change the hiring policies of the Armed Services. We can and will, however, make clear our own opposition to discrimination of any kind, and we will continue to do all that we can to assure our gay, lesbian and bisexual students, staff and faculty that they are welcome and valued members of our community.

## **Air Force JAG Here to Interview on April 10**

Capt. Robert Palmer will be here at the Law School on Friday, April 10, to conduct informational interviews of 2Ls and 3Ls who are interested in post-graduation careers with the Air Force JAG. He is meeting with 2Ls as well as 3Ls because many applicants like to apply at the very start of their 3L year, even before fall OCI, and therefore the Air Force meets with those students in the spring to give them all the information they will need. If you are interested in talking to Capt. Palmer when he is here at the Law School on April 10, please go to the "OCI" section of Symplicity, choose the "Air Force JAG Open Sign Up" session from the "Sessions" drop-down menu, click on the button that says "April 10," and you will be taken to a screen that displays all available interview times. Select a time that works for you and click on "Sign Up." Please sign up for the EARLIEST interview time that works for you, and please sign up by April 8. Please also make sure you have a current resume uploaded into the Symplicity system.

## **Fifth Annual IMPACT Career Fair for Law Students and Attorneys with Disabilities**

Registration is now open for the IMPACT Career Fair for Law Students and Attorneys with Disabilities. This Career Fair will be held on Friday, August 7, 2009, at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, VA, near Reagan National Airport. It is open to fall 2009 returning law students as well as all law school graduates, nationwide. Students and graduates must register by July 5, 2009, at <http://www.law.arizona.edu/career/impact/studentregistrationintro.cfm>

## **Resource For Non-Traditional Legal Jobs**

The Career Services Office subscribes to the Non-Traditional Legal Careers Report, published every two weeks, which lists positions for J.D.s in non-law firm settings. Each issue features positions in Business, Education, Government, the Judiciary, Legal Publishing, Policy, Law Libraries, Public Interest, and International positions. The website address is: <http://www.nontradlegal.com/>. Contact [nileshpatel@wisc.edu](mailto:nileshpatel@wisc.edu) for the username and password.

## **NALP's 2009 Online Apartment Exchange**

Law students seeking summer housing, and students with housing available for the summer, are invited to participate in NALP's free online 2009 Apartment Exchange. It's easy -- just visit [www.nalp.org](http://www.nalp.org) and follow the link to the Apartment Exchange. The Apartment Exchange will be available until May 15, 2009.