Preparing for Next Year
Marianne Deagle, Assistant Dean of Career Services

No question among us – this has been a difficult year for a job search. The bad news started last September and since then we’ve heard nothing but gloom and doom. Despite the very tight job market, our 2008 graduates are finding jobs – we get a call or email every week from them telling us they are employed. Some are working in practice areas not their first choice and other others are working fewer hours than they would like, but they are working in real jobs, gaining real experience, so don’t give up hope. All of the top job search experts consistently remind job-seekers to remain optimistic and to be positive in their interviews. If you need encouragement, make an appointment with my office. In the meantime, make sure you are in the best position possible by considering the following:

“If I ignore it, maybe it will go away” is not the approach to take. If you have not done so this year, please meet with a career counselor to create a job search strategy and to review your resume and cover letter. Students continue to mail out typo-ridden resumes and cover letters (I know this because I receive calls from employers telling me this) – so please proofread and let your counselor take a look before you send them out.

Do not fret for long about the wording in a cover letter. If you see a job posting in Symplicity and want to apply – do not delay. I talk to students all the time who see a job posting on Symplicity and a week later are still word-smithing it. You should have a basic cover letter ready to go at all times that you can quickly massage depending on the job to which you are applying. In this tight job market, any delay will prevent you from getting an interview. If you need access to Symplicity, contact us at law-career@luc.edu or 915-7160.

Don’t wait for jobs to appear on Symplicity. Remember to continue networking to find the jobs that never get posted and use the Chicago Area 4 or More List and our practice area lists to identify firms to contact. See our website. Broaden your horizons. If you were hoping to work in a large law firm doing real estate – guess what – it’s long past time to consider a different practice area and/or practice setting. A majority of our students do not find work in large law firms. This has been true for several years but especially this year. Most of our grads find work in small to medium-size law firms, government agencies, public interest organizations, and the judiciary, so re-focus your search.

Preparing for Interviews: Schedule a mock interview so you are ready when you get the call. In the meantime, look at the resources we have on our website and in your 1L Handbook on interviewing. This information includes the questions you may be asked, the questions you should be prepared to ask and many other interviewing tips.

Look beyond Chicago: If you are planning to move out of state after graduation consider getting reciprocity with a law school’s career services office in that location. Email us with the name of the school, the contact person at the school’s career services office and their email address and we will request reciprocity. Getting reciprocity will provide you access to another law school’s career services resources. Any 1L or 2L planning to be in another state this summer who hopes to return there after graduation, please let us know ASAP so we can get you access this summer to a career services office in that location. That way, you’ll have access to the resources in that career services office to help you with next year’s job search.

Evening Students: We hold office hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 7:00 p.m. Please know that we are here for you and that the most effective way to approach a job search is to visit with us for an hour early on and at least once per week. If your schedule requires that we meet with you at a time other than our regularly scheduled evening hours, we can accommodate you. Email us at law-career@luc.edu and we will get you scheduled with a counselor.

Symplicity Spotlight

- Attorney (2009 graduate), Kopon Airdo, LLC
  Kopon Airdo, LLC has an opening for a 2009 law school graduate with strong writing skills and an excellent academic record. To learn more about the firm, visit www.koponairdo.com. To apply, please fax your cover letter and resume to Danielle Dombrow at 312-506-4460. See job posting # 3707 on Symplicity.

- Loyola University Chicago Elder Law Initiative, Student Fellow
  The Elder Law Initiative is seeking a full-time student fellow this summer from the beginning of May through the month of July. The fellowship includes a stipend of $5,500. For more information, please see job posting # 3727 on Symplicity.

- Law Clerk, Illinois Association of School Boards (Lombard, IL)
  The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Office of General Counsel seeks a summer law clerk for its Lombard office. 1Ls & 2Ls are welcome to apply on or before April 20, 2009. See job posting # 3688 on Symplicity.

- Summer Internship, Office of the State Appellate Defender
  The Office of the State Appellate Defender - Capital Post-Conviction Unit is now accepting applications for its Summer 2009 internship program. 1Ls & 2Ls are welcome to apply on or before April 10, 2009. See job posting # 3692 on Symplicity.

- ABA Section of Taxation, Public Service Fellowship
  The American Bar Association Section of Taxation is pleased to announce that the application period for its Public Service Fellowship program for 2010-2012 is now open. See job posting # 3685 for more information.

- Law Clerk, Futterman & Howard, Chtd.
  Small loop law firm specializing in ERISA/securities and consumer fraud class actions, whistle-blower representation, and desegregation litigation seeks a law clerk to work part-time during the school year and full-time over the summer. 2L applicants are preferred, but applications from exceptional 1Ls will be considered. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, references, and a writing sample that demonstrates research and writing capabilities to Dora Arboleda at darboleda@futtermanhoward.com. See job posting # 3690 on Symplicity.
National Association of Women Lawyers Presents: Backpack to Briefcase
April 14, 2009 • 11 a.m.—2:30 p.m. • 25 E. Pearson, Kasbeer Hall
This program helps second year and third year law students navigate the transition of student to professional with advice from career consultants and experienced practicing women attorneys from diverse backgrounds and varying levels of seniority while providing networking opportunities. Topics include: How to Navigate the Stormy Job Market, The Big Picture: How to Recognize the Change from Law Student to Lawyer, Working with Partners and Senior Colleagues, and Investing in Yourself.

Heartland Diversity Legal Job Fair
August 7-8 in Kansas City, MO
The HDLJF will include law firms, legal associations, and corporate legal departments based in Kansas City. For more information about the job fair or how to register, please visit: http://heartlanddiversity.org/StudentReg.htm

Do you plan to participate in OCI in August?
Please note that interviews begin on August 17, one week before classes begin. If you plan to participate, plan to be back in Chicago by August 17!

All students planning to participate in OCI should also plan to attend the OCI Nuts & Bolts sessions: April 15 @ 12:00 p.m. or April 16 @ 5:30 p.m. in the 10th Floor Ceremonial Courtroom

3Ls: Come hear from our 2008 Grads about their post-graduation job search success!
April 6, 2009, 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Ceremonial Courtroom
Six 2008 graduates who found jobs after they graduated last May will participate in a panel discussion about how they found their jobs. Some found jobs while they studied for the bar exam, some found jobs after they passed the bar. They are eager to share their insights and advice about the strategies that worked for them.

Our 3Ls who attended this panel last year found it to be very encouraging and helpful.

Skadden Fellowship Information Session
Northwestern will be hosting a program on the Skadden post-graduate public interest fellowships on April 15 at 12pm. The event will be held at 357 E. Chicago Ave. in Rubloff 15. If you will be attending, please RSVP to law-career@luc.edu by April 9, 2009.

2009 Graduates: Are you pursuing a public interest career?
If so, please keep in mind Loyola’s Loan Repayment Assistance Program. Learn more about the eligibility requirements and application process by visiting http://www.luc.edu/law/career/LRAP.html

On March 19, Corboy & Demetrio hosted a reception as an opportunity for Loyola 1Ls to meet many of our alums currently practicing in Chicago.

Below (from l. to r.) Michelle Kohut, JD 2002, Associate at Corboy & Demetrio, Kevin Conway, JD 1976, Partner at Cooney & Conway, 1L Tom McGettrick, 1L Kathryn Conway, & 1L Michael Patterson.

On March 9, we were joined by Rose Ann Pastor (above l) and Frank Kimball (above r) who shared their knowledge and expertise in the areas of networking and the current job market.

April Events at the CBA

Government Service Career Fair
April 4, 2009, 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
CBA Building, 321 S. Plymouth
For students who are registered for this event: mark your calendars & don’t forget to attend!

Lunch with a Judge
April 15, 2009, 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.
CBA Building, 321 S. Plymouth
You’re invited to have lunch with the Hon. James F. Holderman, Chief Judge, Eastern Division, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois. The judge will discuss courtroom decorum and how young lawyers can practice successfully in Court. Event includes free pizza lunch. You must be a CBA member or law student member to attend, and you must register online in advance of the lunch at the Chicago Bar Association’s website.
Limit 100 attendees.

Cook County Bar Association Minority Job Fair
The Cook County Bar Association’s 26th Annual Minority Law Student Job Fair will take place on August 21, 2009 at the Embassy Suites Chicago. Minority students in the classes of 2009 and 2010 are invited to participate.
For more info, go to www.ccbaminorityjobfair.com.
I really wanted a public interest job. I had a great resume: great grades, two years at the Legal Aid Bureau of Metropolitan Family Services (including one year with my own case load), two years as PILS auction chair, and a year on the PILR board. In September 2007, I spent hours and hours refining and rearranging words in my Skadden Fellowship essays just to get shot down after the first round of interviews. In January 2008, I had a spectacular two hour interview at a great legal aid office and never even received a polite rejection letter much less an offer. When I graduated in May 2008, I was still utterly and totally unemployed. Finally, in November 2008, a week after I was sworn in, I started at DuPage Bar Legal Aid Service.

All the things I did in law school were instrumental to me finally getting a job, but it’s the following things that pushed me from (mostly) likeable well-rounded student to employed lawyer.

Tip #1: Cast a wide net.
So the first thing that you may have noticed is that I work in DuPage. Some of you may not even know where DuPage is: I didn’t really until I interviewed. I commute an hour each way, but it is more than worth it to have a job I love. Learn the collar counties.

Tip #2: Once you get the interview, don’t screw up the easy parts.
If you’re worried about train delays, take a cab. If you are a crappy ironer, get your shirt dry-cleaned or buy a brand new shirt. I left two hours early to get to the interview for my current job in case I got lost in the western suburbs. Which I did.

Tip #3: Have a beautiful, concise, and immaculate cover letter and resume.
Toiling over endless cover letters, resumes, and fellowship essays has dramatically improved my writing because, since your letter or resume should never be over a page, you have to make every word count. Don’t be embarrassed if you don’t really know what you’re doing. I needed a million people to help me, and their help was invaluable. Once you have a good cover letter, you can adapt it, but it has to be GOOD to start. I can’t tell you how many friends have later been told that their letters got them off the pile and into the interview.

Tip #4: Know everyone.
Chatting up everyone in a ten-foot radius is an instinct for me, but I didn’t really realize what a valuable instinct that was until I needed references not just to say nice things when called, but to aggressively call places back. Don’t merely volunteer or work in your field; take that extra step and get to know everyone in your office. Develop relationships with all of your professors. I know people who worked it even harder, taking alumni in their field to lunch and inviting former adjunct professors to drinks. Make sure at least one staff member at Career Services knows your name, you face, your interests, etc. Remember, they hear about all the jobs first.

Tip #5: Use those people.
When you are looking for a job, let everyone know. Continuously keep in touch with updates about your job search. Each and every time you apply for a job, let your references know that you are using them as a reference. Give them a copy of the job description, an updated resume, and, if they are a professor, the course names, semesters, and grades you received in the classes you took with them. People want to help you, but they need you to help them first.

Those are my best tips! Good luck! Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions about the job process or working in legal aid-

mrmacbri@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career Planning for Rising 2Ls</td>
<td>25 E. Pearson, Room 1101</td>
<td>April 2, 2009, 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>25 E. Pearson, Ceremonial Courtroom (10th Floor)</td>
<td>April 2, 2009, 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Success Strategies for Women in Law Firms: a program for 1Ls &amp; 2Ls</td>
<td>Wildman, Harrold, Allen, &amp; Dixon LLP 225 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 3000</td>
<td>April 2, 2009 Registration begins at 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>CBA’s Government Service Career Fair You must have registered to attend.</td>
<td>CBA Building, 321 S. Plymouth Ct.</td>
<td>April 4, 2009, 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>2008 Graduate Panel</td>
<td>25 E. Pearson, Ceremonial Courtroom (10th Floor)</td>
<td>April 6, 2009, 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Loyola Alums in Practice: In-House Counsel</td>
<td>Career Services Office, 25 E. Pearson, 1370</td>
<td>April 13, 2009, 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Judicial Clerkships: OSCAR Nuts &amp; Bolts</td>
<td>25 E. Pearson, Room 1101</td>
<td>April 14, 2009, 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>National Association of Women Lawyers presents: Backpack to Briefcase</td>
<td>25 E. Pearson, Kasbeer Hall (15th Floor)</td>
<td>April 14, 2009, 11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Skadden Fellowship Info Session</td>
<td>Northwestern University School of Law 357 E. Chicago, Rubloff 15</td>
<td>April 15, 2009 @ 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Department of Justice Info Session</td>
<td>25 E. Pearson, Room 1103</td>
<td>April 16, 2009, 5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>OCI Nuts &amp; Bolts</td>
<td>25 E. Pearson, Ceremonial Courtroom (10th Floor)</td>
<td>April 15, 2009, 12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>April 16, 2009, 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>1Ls &amp; 2Ls: Preparing for Your Summer Job</td>
<td>25 E. Pearson, Room 1101</td>
<td>April 24, 2009, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.</td>
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