Alumni Spotlight: Kristi Lemoine, Class of 2009

I got my job on Facebook. Really! I am a clerk for a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington, D.C. This is my story – I hope telling it will help in your job search.

I worked full-time as an editor while in law school, which meant I didn’t have extra time for law-related work. But I applied for and earned the position of Student Editor for the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association. For a year, I interviewed students around the country and reported on events and awards in the Division. The position also meant I had a seat on the Board of Governors of the Division. I was required to attend three board meetings during the year, where I spent long weekends with a group of other law students from around the country. One of them was a guy named Brian, from Florida. When Brian graduated a year and a half ahead of me, he went to work as a clerk for a federal judge.

Brian and I stayed in touch on Facebook. When he started looking for a job, I saw his posts and sent encouraging comments. And when he finally posted that he had taken a new job across the country, I immediately emailed and asked if his judge needed a new clerk. Turned out he did. I sent a resume and cover letter that day, followed by writing samples and references. I had an interview the next week, was offered the job three days later, and started work in DC two weeks later. I had never thought about veterans law, but I find it interesting and rewarding. I love my job and the work I do.

So what did I do that you can do?

- Meet as many law students as you can and stay in touch with them. Apply for leadership positions in national organizations. Attend regional or national meetings. Force yourself to meet people, and then stay in touch via email or Facebook. The friends I made through the ABA now work for NASA, a labor union, Dept. of Health and Human Services, and law firms. Not bad connections to have.

- Look outside Chicago. Everyone wants to be in Chicago. But there are lots of other great cities. And in some of those places, people are actually hiring! Consider the federal government—they are hiring. Don’t just check www.usajobs.gov — also check the websites of individual agencies and courts.

- Tell everyone you know that you are looking for a job. I put it in my Christmas card letter last year. The people you know are connected, and they want to help you. My former youth minister’s wife put me in touch with her friend, who is the head of the legal department at Chick-Fil-A. How else would I have ever made that connection?

- Use your time productively. I was jobless for eight months after graduating. I sent out over 1400 resumes. I also took and passed two bar exams: first in Illinois and then in Texas, where my family lives. I was living in Texas and thought I might end up staying there, so I used my time wisely and studied for a second bar exam. In my interview, when my judge asked me what I had been doing the last few months, I was able to say that I had used my time preparing for the bar. Always a good answer.

- Ask everyone for help, and then keep them posted. I asked professors to put me in touch with their former coworkers. I went to my nephew’s school functions so I could meet the parents, then found the lawyers and asked for help. I had lunch with lawyers, who then told me to contact lawyer friends of theirs. I sent thank you emails when people offered help. And when I finally got a job, I sent everyone who helped me an email telling them that I had a job and thanking them for their time and efforts on my behalf. The next time I need their help, they’ll remember me as being polite and efficient.

- Do good work and build good relationships with your supervisors. If they like you, they will recommend you to other people and make efforts on your behalf that they wouldn’t otherwise. Your good reputation goes a long, long way and spreads far beyond that one relationship.

Good luck in your search, and hang in there.
If I can help, contact me at kristi.lemoine@gmail.com.

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**MPILCC Registration**

The Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference offers students the opportunity to interview with public interest employers from across the country. MPILCC will take place on February 6, 2010 at Northwestern. To register, please email law-career@luc.edu by December 9 with the following info:

1. Last Name
2. Middle Initial or Middle Name
3. First Name
4. Email address
5. Class year (1L, 2L, or 3L)
6. Registered last year? (Yes or No)

**2010 Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Internships**

Each summer, PILI funds dozens of 400-hour internships for first and second-year law students to work at public interest law agencies in the Chicago area. For summer internships, PILI pays a $5,000 grant to the agency. The agency withholds taxes, and pays the intern for 400 hours, or 10 full-time weeks, of work. PILI will be accepting applications for the summer beginning December 1st.

PILI also offers a limited number of school year internships for Chicago area law students. Agencies hosting selected interns will receive $2,500 to support 200 hours of intern work. Applications for school year internships are being accepted now, and it is recommended that you submit your materials by December 31st.

Visit PILI’s website at http://www.pili-law.org/internships.htm for more information on participating public interest law agencies and details on how to apply for both spring & summer internships.
Meet the Alums Reception
On November 17th, Loyola Law alumni and students gathered at the University Club for a reception hosted by the Loyola University Chicago School of Law Board of Governors, the Office of Career Services, and the Student Bar Association.

From left to right: John Scharkey, Class of 2002, Associate at Neal, Gerber, & Eisenberg; Cody Vitello, Class of 2011; and Brendan Brassil, Class of 2011.

Loyola Alums in Practice: Immigration Law
On November 18th, 4 attorneys practicing in the area of immigration law participated in a panel discussion for our students about their career paths and the practice of immigration law.

From left to right: Beata Leja, Class of 2007, Associate at Minsky, McCormick, & Hallagan; Bradley Richards, Class of 2007, Associate at Fragomen; The Honorable Robert Vinikoor, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Immigration Review; Greta Hendricks, Clerk to Judge Vinikoor; James Ten Broek, Class of 1992, Attorney at Chicago Immigration Advocates.

Job Hunting outside of Chicago?
If you’re looking for a summer or post-graduate opportunity in another market, consider requesting reciprocity. Reciprocity will allow you temporary access to the Office of Career Services at an ABA accredited law school in a different city or state.

Visit http://www.luc.edu/law/career/reciprocity.html for more information on how to request reciprocity.

ABA Judicial Intern Opportunity Program
The Summer 2010 Judicial Intern Opportunity Program is a full-time, six week minimum summer internship open to all first- or second-year minority and/or financially disadvantaged law students who want to do legal research and writing for state or federal judges.

Visit http://www.abanet.org/litigation/jiop/ for more information. Students applying to the program must submit a completed application, resume, legal writing sample, and a statement of interest. All applications must be postmarked by December 31, 2009.

Attention Students:
Don’t forget to set up a meeting with your career counselor!
1Ls & 2Ls - These are your counselors:
Last names A-G: Maureen Kieffer
Last names H-O: Mary Beth Wynn
Last names P-Z: Marianne Deagle

Career Services is open during the holidays!
The Office of Career Services will be open from 8:30am until 5pm Monday-Friday throughout winter break.
We will be closed for University-wide holidays on the following dates: December 24, 25, 31, and January 1.

University of Arizona Government Honors & Internship Handbook
Don’t forget to check out this handbook if you’re looking for a summer or post-graduate opportunity working for a government agency.
http://www.law.arizona.edu/career/honorshandbook.cfm
Username: cookie | Password: dough

1Ls: Please be aware that many of the 1L summer opportunities in this handbook have December deadlines! Don’t miss your chance to apply!

Diversity Scholarship Upcoming Deadlines
Several law firms offer first-year minority scholarships/fellowships that include (1) a scholarship to be applied to the student’s second year tuition and (2) a paid 1L summer associate position with their firm.

The deadlines for many of these scholarship/fellowship opportunities are in December & January, including:
Vedder Price, PC (December 15th)
McAndrews, Held, & Malloy (January 15th)
Harter, Secrest, & Emery (January 22nd)

http://www.luc.edu/law/career/Diversity_Scholarship.html

Office of Career Services
25 E. Pearson Street, Suite 1370
Chicago, IL 60611
Top 5 Social Media Tips
Taken from How (and How Not) to Use Social Media to Job Search
Alison Doyle, About.com Guide

• GOOGLE YOUR NAME & CHECK WHAT’S ONLINE
There’s a ton of information that can tell employers a lot about you online including tweets, instant messages, blogs, and the content and photos you post on social networking sites like MySpace, Facebook, and Twitter. It’s quite easy for employers to find information you may have preferred to keep private. Much of it can be found by Googling your name.

• BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU TWEET
Be really careful what you tweet. You don’t know who might read it. Search Twitter for “I hate my job” for an example of what I mean. Hiring managers and bosses are using Twitter, too, and if you say it, someone will probably read it. Tweets show up in Google searches and you don’t want to lose your job because you didn’t think before you tweeted, even if you hate it.

• DON’T FORGET YOUR FACEBOOK PRIVACY SETTINGS
Here’s an example of what can happen when you aren’t careful about your privacy settings on Facebook. I received photos of a third party from one of my Facebook friends. She was able to send me photos of her friends because they didn’t limit who their photos were shared with. I was able to see photos of someone I didn’t know simply because the person wasn’t careful about her privacy settings. If I was an employer, I wouldn’t have been impressed—she was having a really, really good time.

• DON’T SPEND TIME ONLINE ON YOUR BOSS’S DIME
The temptation, of course, when you’re job searching is to spend time looking at job postings, perhaps uploading your resume to apply, talking to contacts, or posting about the trials and tribulations of your job search on your Facebook page. If you were to do that, you certainly wouldn’t be the first (or only) person to do so. Many people job search from work, but given the way companies monitor employees, it’s not wise to use your work computer or email account for job searching. Or, if you do, be really careful about how you do it.

• BE CONSISTENT
Does the employment history on your resume match what’s on your LinkedIn profile? Does the information you have on your Facebook page (if it’s public) match up with the information you have elsewhere online? It’s fine if you rework your job description, for example, because targeting your resume is a good thing when applying for a job. What’s not okay is if your job titles, companies, and dates don’t jive. That’s a red flag for prospective employers.

Congratulations! You got an interview. Maybe you got it through networking, by responding to a job posting, or through on-campus interviewing. Now it’s up to you to turn that interview into an offer. As the Dilbert strip above illustrates—it is critically important to use good judgment when answering interview questions and to figure out what NOT to talk about and if you have to talk about something that is uncomfortable, to find the best way to deliver the news. Don’t get me wrong, smart interviewing isn’t about putting on a front. It’s about being yourself...being the smart, professional, engaging you—not the “unprepared - say whatever pops into your head” you. You can overcome any flaw in your background or on your resume if you figure out the words to use ahead of time and then practice them, out loud, before your interview. Below are a few of the questions that students get asked in interviews that sometimes cause them grief. The way you deliver your answers is as important as what you say. That’s why preparing for your interviews is so very, very important. If you think about these questions ahead of time and prepare your answers with the help of your career advisor and the many publications in our office that are available to you, ahead of time, you are more likely to turn your interviews into offers.

1. Tell me something about yourself?
2. Why do you want to work here?
3. Why do you want to be a lawyer?
4. Why did you leave your previous job after such a short time?
5. Why should we hire you?
6. What is your biggest weakness?
7. Why aren’t your grades better?
8. Why is there a gap on your resume?
9. Why didn’t you get an offer from your prior employer?
10. Various behavioral-interviewing questions.

We can help you figure out ways to successfully answer these and other tough questions. Schedule an appointment with a career services counselor the next time you get an interview and let us know how we can help!

For more information on interviews, check out the “Interviewing Technique” section (third section down) on the handouts page of the CSO website:
http://luc.edu/law/career/Career_Services_Hand.html