Applying for Jobs and Timing

We receive a lot of questions about timing when students begin to think seriously about applying for jobs. In January each year we often hear the question, “When should I begin applying for jobs?” The answer is “It depends.” Timing depends on the type of job you are applying to. As many of you know, applying to work in a governmental agency like the Illinois Attorney General’s Office or the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office or many public interest organizations involves adhering to application deadlines in order to be considered. There are many ways to stay informed about those deadlines, which include monitoring the organization’s website, reading this newsletter and our emails, closely monitoring Symplicity, and becoming familiar with our website because most, if not all government agencies and public interest organizations are linked on our website. It is critically important to stay on top of deadlines, which can be difficult to do when finals are approaching and you are away on Christmas or summer break. However, many deadlines occur during those periods so make sure you are staying connected somehow.

If you are interested in working for a law firm – again, timing will depend upon the type of firm you wish to work for. Small and most mid-size firms provide no timing guidelines. There are thousands of small and mid-size law firms in the Chicago area and each handles hiring differently. Some post on Symplicity throughout the spring semester but most do not. For those who post, do not delay in responding to the postings. Assume that other law schools are receiving and posting those same jobs so the quicker you apply, the better. Check Symplicity often to stay on top of the postings and update your resume often so it and a cover letter are always ready to send out. For small firms that don’t post, get informed about them by using the 4 or More List. The 4 or More List is a list of every law firm in the Chicago metro area with four or more attorneys. It is located on our website under “Law Firms.” It contains a wealth of information about each law firm, including their practice areas and number of attorneys. We strongly suggest that you use the 4 or More List to identify firms that do the kind of law you are interested in, then look for networking contacts at the firms, or reach out to them directly with a cover letter, resume, and transcript.

Large law firms typically do their hiring in August and September, which means it is important to get informed about them during the spring and early summer and to read the emails that come from our office throughout the summer. Fewer and fewer large firms participate in on-campus hiring programs so it is important to go beyond on-campus interviewing programs if you want to be considered by a large firm. If you are interested in a firm that does not participate in on-campus hiring, reach out to them directly by networking, or with a cover letter, resume and transcript. Many large firms participate in job fairs so remain apprised of all of the job fairs that take place throughout the summer by reading our newsletter and scouring our website’s job fair web page.

There are many ways to stay informed about timing, and other career-related matters. One of the best ways is to visit with your career counselor at least once a semester. If you need a refresher on timing, possible employers, where to find information about particular employers, make an appointment and receive a refresher. The job search won’t be as overwhelming if you stay connected to your counselor and visit our office often.

Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference
Saturday, February 5 @ Northwestern University School of Law

Registered students: Assigned interviews and alternate status will be available online on January 20th at noon. You will have until noon on January 26th to cancel scheduled interviews or alternate status via email.

Non-Registered students: Please note that even if you did not register for the conference, you are still eligible to attend the table talk portion of the event. Table Talk is an open networking session from 9:30-11:45 a.m. on the day of the interview program. Not all Table Talk employers may be hiring for summer or permanent positions. You are encouraged to attend and drop off resumes (if an employer is soliciting them) in person.

Summer/Fall 2011 Externship Info Session

1L & 2L students who are interested in applying for a judicial or non-judicial* externship for the summer 2011 or fall 2011 semester should plan to attend

Thursday, Jan. 27 5:00—6:00 p.m.  Room 1201
Friday, Jan. 28 12:00—1:00 p.m.  Room 1201

*To be eligible for a non-judicial externship you must have completed 51 or more credit hours.
Save the Date: Practice Tracks

Still haven't decided what area of law you want to pursue after graduation? Overwhelmed or confused by your choices? Want to learn more about over 50 practice areas from practicing attorneys?

Come to Practice Tracks and meet practicing attorneys representing over 50 different practice areas!

Thursday, February 17, 2011
5:00—6:30 p.m.
Chicago Bar Association | 321 S. Plymouth Court

1L Diversity Scholarships: 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 the next few months, including:

- Stoel Rives | deadline: January 19
- Harter, Secrest, & Emery | deadline: January 21
- Dorsey & Whitney | deadline: January 21
- Perkins Coie | deadline: January 24
- Perkins Coie (Phoenix office only) | deadline: January 28
- Finnegan | deadline: March 1

Visit [http://www.luc.edu/law/career/diversity_firms.html](http://www.luc.edu/law/career/diversity_firms.html) for more info!

1L Fridays Continue!

The 1L Fridays series will continue this semester, beginning in late January!

On January 28th, the Office of Career Services will welcome a panel of attorneys who will speak about interviewing techniques and how to put your best foot forward in any interview situation.

January 28th @ 12:00 p.m. Room 1202

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator with Mary Beth Wynn

Associate Director Mary Beth Wynn is now certified to administer the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, a very useful tool for self-assessment.

**The MBTI can be especially useful for you if:**

...you didn’t do as well as you’d expected on your exams and want to learn more about how your study strategies are related to your personality.

...you’re unsure about what type of law practice is right for you.

...you need help clarifying your career goals and the best strategies for achieving them.

To set up an appointment for the MBTI with Mary Beth, stop by the office to pick up the MBTI instrument and instructions.

Now is the time...
...to meet with your counselor!!!

Get a jump start on your summer or post-graduate job search by meeting with your counselor!

Counselors are available to review resumes and cover letters, conduct mock interviews, or discuss career paths/options for summer or full-time employment.

1L Students:
Last names A-C: Maureen Kieffer
Last names D-J: Mary Beth Wynn
Last names K-P: Greg Veza
Last names Q-Z: Marianne Deagle

2L & 3L Students:
Last names A-G: Maureen Kieffer
Last names H-O: Mary Beth Wynn
Last names P-Z: Marianne Deagle

Stop by Suite 1370 of the Corboy Law Center, call 312-915-7160, or email law-career@luc.edu to schedule an appointment.

Spring Semester CSO Events

- **Alums in Practice: Mortgage Foreclosures**
  January 25th @ 12:00 p.m.
  Room 1102
- **1L Friday Series: Interviewing**
  January 28th @ 12:00 p.m.
  Room 1202
- **Job Search Strategies for 1Ls**
  February 1st @ 12:00 p.m.
  Room 1202
- **1L Friday Series: Government Practice**
  February 11th @ 12:00 p.m.
  Room 1202
- **1L Friday Series: Public Interest Practice**
  February 25th @ 12:00 p.m.
  Room 1202
- **1L Friday Series: Law Firm Practice**
  March 18th @ 12:00 p.m.
  Room 1202
- **1L Friday Series: Marketing & Professional Development**
  April 1st @ 12:00 p.m.
  Room 1202

Be sure to read Law School Announcements for updates on the locations for our programs.

Office of Career Services
Corboy Law Center, Suite 1370
Chicago, IL 60611

Phone: 312.915.7160
Email: law-career@luc.edu
Website: [www.luc.edu/law/career](http://www.luc.edu/law/career)
Alumni Spotlight: Robert H. Muriel, Class of 1993

Q: Why did you attend law school and become a lawyer?
A: Prior to law school, I was working as an accountant in the tax division at Arthur Andersen & Co. Accountants were mixed with lawyers, MBA's and other professionals in the same pool of consultants. I had many opportunities to work with lawyers on tax projects, and realized that their skill sets would be useful and probably necessary to advance in the corporate world.

Q: What do you wish you had paid more attention to as a student or new lawyer?
A: I wish I had taken the time and made the effort to get to know some of the law professors better while I was in school. I have gotten to know many professors after graduation, and they are all such genuine, decent people who are truly committed to the law school and students.

Q: What professor/event/issue did you enjoy most in law school?
A: Professor Michael's class was never dull. I still repeat his many sayings to even my own kids: "Even a broken clock is right twice a day." "Your statement and a dollar twenty five will get you a ride on the CTA." Professor Braithwaite's criminal law class provoked quite controversial and lively discussions with students. I remember well and enjoyed at the time the humorous moments in that class.

Q: What do you like most about practicing law?
A: I love meeting interesting people and really enjoy solving challenging problems. There are so many aspects to litigation—it is more than just winning the case. You need to accurately understand the client’s goals, educate the client about the process, try to find common interests so that a settlement may be worked out, consistently efficiently deliver high-level services, etc.

Q: How important has networking been in your practice/career?
A: Networking is critical for my business success. I am the sole owner of my firm and am responsible for generating all business in my firm. Generating business for me requires meeting as many people as possible, telling them about my business, and hopefully gaining their trust. It all starts with meeting people.

Q: What do you like the most and least about being a lawyer/your job?
A: Being a "lawyer" (taking depositions, researching a little known area of the law, writing a challenging brief, preparing for argument in court) is the most fulfilling part, especially if your adversary is professional and on top of things. Some of the business parts of being a lawyer are not really fun, like keeping track of your time, collecting bills, etc. If you are at a larger firm, office politics can be frustrating.

Q: What was the last great book you read?
A: Born to Run by Christopher McDougall was inspiring. I enjoyed reading The Road, by Cormac McCarthy. It was tough to get through the beginning, but ultimately a very moving and thought-provoking story of a father and his son. I also was very pleasantly surprised by Trial and Error: The Education of a Courtroom Lawyer, a memoir by Chicago attorney John C. Tucker. One of the interesting stories was Mr. Tucker's first argument in the U.S. Supreme Court against our very own Professor Michael, the RAM.

Rob Muriel is the founder of the Muriel Law Offices, a litigation boutique specializing in commercial and business litigation. He is a Class of 1993 alumni of Loyola University Chicago School of Law and currently serves on the Board of Governors for the law school.