



February 19, 2007

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# Career Corner

## Career Tips

### What Do Employers Look For?»

By Pamela Hyland

In Career Services, counselors frequently hear the student lament, "My grades are bad! I'll never find a job!" If you are concerned about what your transcript supposedly says about you, you'll be happy to learn that most legal employers are not as shallow as you think—they are looking for well-rounded, personable colleagues who will work hard, bring value to the office, and be a pleasure to work with. Here are some of the additional qualifications that legal employers seek.

Relevant experience, whether it be legal, academic or business, is a big selling point with legal employers. Use the CSO publication, "Overview of Lawyering Skills and Values" to describe your experience in terms of skills attorneys use frequently. You can find it in the Document Library on [HastingsCareers.com](http://HastingsCareers.com) or in the CSO.

Legal employers are also able to see when your community service work has resulted in organizational, people, or leadership skills, which they can put to work for them. Be sure to take full credit for higher-level skills learned or responsibility taken in community services or lower-level jobs.

Sustained interest in the legal professional is another quality that legal employers seek. If you can

demonstrate a long-term interest in the law through membership in pre-law societies or other legally related resume items, you will impress the employer with the maturity of your interest.

Leadership is an important quality in a candidate. Be sure to list any experiences in which you demonstrated leadership, such as being an officer in a student organization or organizing a campus blood drive.

Employers love it when you are genuinely interested in their practice and demonstrate that by seeking experience in that practice area. Use language in your cover letters and phone contacts that expresses your enthusiasm for the law and for their specific practice.

If your grades are not glamorous, you'll be glad to know that there is no correlation between grades in law school and effectiveness as an attorney. Numerous studies have shown that students who didn't shine in law school are often very shiny attorneys!

Lastly, keep in mind that 90% of all working attorneys were not in the top 10% of their class. You can find a job you can love, a job that will sustain your intellectual interest as well as your fiscal health throughout a long career, even if your grades are not stellar!

Want to make an appointment with a career counselor?

Call the CSO Front Desk at **(415) 565-4619**.

## JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!

Everyday, the Career Services Office receives new listings. Log onto [HastingsCareers.com](http://HastingsCareers.com) and check often for new postings. Just a few highlights:

## SUMMER POSITIONS

**The Legal Department of California's Franchise Tax Board** will be recruiting for the 2007 summer legal internship position during the month of March 2007. The summer internship position is located at Franchise Tax Board's Sacramento/Rancho Cordova headquarters. Course work in tax is preferred, but not required. Interns are hired as Graduate Student Assistants (GSA). Working as a GSA, you will work with one or more attorneys on various legal projects. Working directly with our lawyers provides you with an opportunity to learn about the scope and breadth of issues in the legal Department. Paid position. **Years Required:** 1L, 2L. **Materials Requested:** Please provide a resume, cover letter; transcript (unofficial is OK); and writing sample. Apply online at [HastingsCareers.com](http://HastingsCareers.com). **Deadline:** 3/3/07

## FELLOWSHIPS

The Center for Food Safety (CFS) is seeking highly motivated summer law clerks to work in a fast-paced environment on cutting-edge genetic

engineering, aquaculture, organic, irradiation, and other food safety and environmental issues. Clerks attend court hearings, agency meetings, Congressional briefings (DC office) and press conferences. They also support ongoing litigation efforts by, among other things, performing legal research, interacting with plaintiffs and drafting legal pleadings. This is a great opportunity for students interested in working with attorneys in a small nonprofit setting to help ensure the safety of our food and the protection of our environment. Clerks will also work with CFS' sister organization, the International Center for Technology Assessment ([www.icta.org](http://www.icta.org)) on issues such as global warming and human cloning. Paid position. **Materials Requested:** Mail resume, writing sample, and cover letter explaining interest in food safety and environmental issues to the address listed on [HastingsCareers.com](http://HastingsCareers.com). Alternatively, email [office@centerforfoodsafety.org](mailto:office@centerforfoodsafety.org). Please indicate whether your application is for Washington, San Francisco. **Years Required:** 2L, 1L. **Deadline:** 2/28/07

**Bet Tzedek Public Interest Law Fellowship.** The fellowship position is based at our North Hollywood office, (Valley Bet Tzedek). Supervised by the Director of Valley Bet Tzedek, the fellow will be working in a diverse poverty law practice, including employment issues, landlord-tenant, public benefits and consumer law issues. In addition, the fellow will serve Jewish seniors through outreach work at senior citizen centers, subsidized housing, synagogues,

etc. The fellow will conduct intake interviews, participate in case review meetings, litigate in civil and administrative courts and mentor legal volunteers. This is a one-year, paid position. **Years Required:** 3L. **Deadline:** Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. **Materials Requested:** Email: [humanresources@bettzedeck.org](mailto:humanresources@bettzedeck.org). Fax#(323) 939-1040. See [HastingsCareers.com](http://HastingsCareers.com) for mailing address.

**The Arthur C. Helton Fellowship Program**, established in 2004, recognizes the legacy of this remarkable Society member. Fellows will undertake their project in association with an established educational institution, international organization, or non-governmental organization working in areas related to international law, human rights, and humanitarian affairs. Paid position. See [HastingsCareers.com](http://HastingsCareers.com) for more information. **Years Required:** 1L, 2L, 3L, LLM. **Materials Requested:** complete application form; writing sample (2-3 pages); Current CV or resume, evidence of law student status and/or date of graduation from a law school; two letters of support (see instructions on application form). Application found online at: <http://www.asil.org/aboutasil/heltonindex.html>. **Deadline:** 2/2/07

### This Week's Events

Tuesday, February 20, 2007  
5-7 pm  
Skyroom – 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
**Small Firm Table Talk**  
Networking Event

Wednesday, February 21, 2007  
12:40-1:30pm  
Panel/Room F  
**Non-Traditional Legal Career Options**

**Alumni Mentor Program Orientation**  
Tuesday, February 20, 2007  
3:40 – 4:30pm; Room 314, Bldg. 198

**Advanced Sign Up Required! Sign up on [HastingsCareers.com](http://HastingsCareers.com)**

